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***Saintpaulia* - "African Violet"**

Light: African violets love bright, indirect light. While they can survive on moderate ambient light, they will only bloom regularly with bright light. They can tolerate a couple hours of direct morning light, but be careful not to scorch the leaves with too much direct rays. A northern or eastern window is a good home for an African violet.

Water: Allow the soil to mostly dry out between waterings. African violets do not like to get water on their leaves. It helps to water from the bottom with room temperature water by placing the violet (potted in a pot with a drainage hole) in a bowl with water and allowing the plant to absorb the water from the base. Be sure not to leave the plant sitting in water for more than 30 minutes to avoid wet feet and root rot.

Environment: African violets will thrive in bright, warm, humid conditions. They prefer temperatures between 60-70 degrees F. For better blooming, fertilize with African violet fertilizer every other week during the growing season. African violets are highly susceptible to temperature change. Keep them away from radiators, AC units, and drafts to keep them in consistent, warm air.

Toxicity: Reported to be toxic, potentially dangerous. Keep pets from consuming.

Of Note:

- Pinch off past flowers and their stems to encourage new bloom growth.
- Avoid water sitting on the leaves. Although they do enjoy humidity, they can't handle more than a fine mist on the leaves.

*When planting in a pot without a drainage hole, avoid over watering by estimating 25% of the container's overall volume, with appropriate drainage materials incorporated when planting.