



Pet Safety Tips for the Holidays

* **Holiday Plants – Keep them out of reach!**

Poinsettias – mildly toxic / irritating - sap can cause nausea and vomiting

Holly & Mistletoe – moderately to severely toxic – especially the berries which contain theobromine (as in chocolate)

Lilies & Daffodils – highly toxic – can lead to death

Christmas Tree – not a major concern, but ingested pine needles can puncture the GI tract – evergreen oils can be irritating to mouth or skin – keep them picked up

* **Maintain your dog's routines to reduce stress**

Regular meal schedules, walks and exercise

If there is lots more activity than usual, make sure they have a safe place to retreat and plan some quiet time

* **Visitors/guests**

Feed your pets before a party so they will not be so apt to beg or steal food

Do not let guests feed your pets human food

If possible, avoid visiting pets

After party drinks or toasts, be sure unattended alcoholic bottles and glassware are secure. Dogs are often attracted by the sweet taste of drinks, especially eggnog. A single bout of alcohol consumption can be deadly.

Don't leave a dish of chocolates that can be reached!

Keep pets away from the garbage! Beware of turkey bones!

* **Holiday Décor**

China, stemware and fine linens should be protected

Scented candles attract because of their smell, taste and texture – keep them up and out of reach to prevent burns and fire hazard

Potpourri contains oils that be toxic to dogs if eaten

Gift wrapping area – don't leave scissors, string, ribbon, staples, etc. where pets can ingest them as items may lead to intestinal blockage and require surgery.

* **Christmas Trees**

Firmly anchor trees (to the extent possible) to avoid falling on inquisitive pets

Do not let your dog drink the tree water – could contain preservatives or fertilizers or antifreeze – also harbors bacteria - do not put aspirin in the water!

Tinsel & garland-like decorations – if eaten, can block the intestines – hang it high out of reach

Keep ornaments out of reach – broken glass shards are quite hazardous

Don't decorate with food like cranberries or popcorn as it may attract your pet.

Avoid bubbling lights (contain oil or methylene chloride), snow sprays and snow flock

Ribbons, yarn, and string taken from gifts under the tree can cause choking, strangulation or intestinal obstruction and bunching of the intestine along the length of the string.

These conditions could require surgery and can be fatal. Secure your gifts!

Batteries for toys or other gifts can be toxic and cause intestinal obstruction. Keep in a safe place until they are ready to be used.

* **Holiday lights** can cause shocks and burns

Make sure cords are well-secured as they can look like chew toys

Unplug any that a pet can encounter when you not at home

* **Snow globes** often contain antifreeze which is quite toxic to dogs!