

Holiday Hazards



This holiday season your home is sure to be filled with fun and cheer! But, it's important to consider your pet's safety when decorating and preparing meals. Here is a list of potentially dangerous seasonal items for dogs and cats to keep in mind.

Decorations

Many pets find holiday decorations very appealing. However, this can lead to various types of injuries.

- **Ornaments:** Pets may think these are toys and ingest (eat) them and/or choke on them. Glass ornaments can cause cuts on paws and the mouth and digestive tract if swallowed. They can also get stuck in the GI tract and need surgical removal.
- **Tinsel/Ribbon/Garland/Wrapping Paper:** Pets often find tinsel and ribbon quite intriguing. This is especially true for cats. If ingested, any of these items can get trapped in the intestines. This requires immediate veterinary attention and can be life-threatening if not addressed.
- **Christmas Tree Water:** Many pets love to drink the water in the tree stand. Be cautious if you use chemicals in the water to preserve the life of your tree as these can be harmful to your pets.

Lights/Candles/Electrical Cords

The glow of lights and candles add a warm touch to a dark, wintry night. Our furry friends, however, may see things differently.

- **Candles or Fireplaces:** Any type of flame candle or fire can cause a burn risk to pets.
- **Wires/Electrical Cords:** Pets may think lights or cords are toys. They may chew them and experience an electrical shock, or create a fire risk.

Family & Guests

- Inform guests not to feed your pet any table food during the celebration. Keep a selection of pet-friendly treats available for guests to share instead.
- Prepare an enrichment toy (such as a Kong) to give your pet while the rest of the family is eating. Or, surprise your pet with a new toy to keep him/her occupied.
- Guard entrances so that pets do not escape when friends and family come and go.
- Extra friends and family in the home may cause pets to feel nervous and anxious. Make sure pets have a safe place to go such as a crate or spare bedroom.

Should your pet experience an emergency over the holidays, contact your primary care veterinarian, or contact VetMED by calling
602-697-4694

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