



Pet Safety

How to Protect Your Pets from Holiday Hazards

Pretty decorations and lavish meals play an important part in most holiday celebrations, but what seems harmless and fun for you and your guests may be very harmful to your pets. So, before you start celebrating, spend some time planning and preparing for the well-being of your cats and dogs to keep them safe from holiday dangers. These easy steps will help:

Good Rules – Any Time

- Be absolutely certain that pets are wearing (at all times) current ID tags.
- Try to keep them on their regular schedule for feeding and exercise.
- Provide plenty of love and attention, so they don't feel left out.
- When there's a party, put your pets in a separate room with some toys and a comfortable place to lie.
- Playing soft music, especially classical, also helps them to relax. They'll feel safer and less stressed.
- Advise overnight guests to keep all medications secure.

Holiday Trappings

- Keep your pets from pawing through the trash. Plastic or foil wrappings and six-pack beverage holders are especially attractive to curious animals.
- Watch where you place candles. Pets can tip them over or get burned.
- Never put ribbon or yarn around your pet's neck. If ingested, it can damage an animal's intestines. Remove any ribbon from gifts out of pet's reach.

Foods and Plants That Harm

- Never give bones to your pets. They can splinter and endanger their lives. Put any meat bones in a closed plastic bag and dispose of them outside.
- Ham and other meats may come packaged with string. If swallowed, string can cause serious problems. Dispose of it with the bones.
- Don't feed pets holiday goodies or leftovers, and make sure they can't get at candies and snacks.
- Some holiday plants, such as holly, lilies and mistletoe, are toxic to pets, so be sure they are always out of reach.
- **Anything chocolate is very toxic and lethal to pets.**

Oh, Christmas Tree

- Use Christmas tree decorations wisely. Decorate the bottom third of the tree with non-breakable plastic or wooden ornaments and keep tinsel off the bottom area where pets can reach. Better yet: Place a barrier around the tree.
- Cover electric cords. Or try coating them with bitter-apple spray, which pets don't like.
- For live trees, keep the water stand covered or use a pet-proof container-the water may contain fertilizers or bacteria.
- Safety secure trees to a wall or the ceiling to prevent them from toppling on playful pets.

