



Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital
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Small Animal Edition

November/December 2009

Keeping Pets Safe During the Holidays

The holiday season is an exciting time for everyone – including your family pets. But, with all the commotion, decorations and rich food can pose potential dangers for them as well.

Decorations:

Choose items that are safe for pets. Many holiday plants can be dangerous to pets including Christmas rose, holly, lillies, mistletoe, and poinsettia. Stagnant water in the base of live Christmas trees can cause gastrointestinal upset as well. Other decorations such as ribbons, tree lights, tinsel, ornament hooks, and ornaments themselves can be dangerous if eaten by pets. Avoid decorating your own pets with ribbons as these can catch on something in the house or may result in choking.

Food:

It's tempting to let your pets join the feast over the holidays, but be cautious. While it's okay in most cases to give your healthy dog or cat a small amount of turkey or vegetables (with the exception of grapes, raisins, and onions), it's best to avoid all other treats. Usual sweets and goodies will commonly cause mild to moderate vomiting or diarrhea. Chocolate, however, especially dark chocolate, can be dangerous. The component *theobromine* can cause death in dogs in certain doses.

Visitors:

Help your pets deal with the hustle and bustle of the holidays by keeping their routines the same. When you are entertaining, provide them with a safe place to retreat. Don't forget to spend some quality time with your pet during the holidays...your pet will be happier, and you'll have a way to lower your blood pressure and relax during one of the busiest times of the year!

Happy Holidays! –Naomi Casper, DVM

FRONTLINE PLUS

Your pet's first line of defense against ticks.

Ticks do not die in cold weather, they hibernate. This means as soon as it warms up (even little bit) they wake up and start looking for a meal. With such a warm fall/winter be sure to check the weather report to know your pet is safe. If it's going to be 40 degrees or warmer, make sure your pet has had Frontline applied in the last 30 days.

Does your pet's bad breath, make you say

"Whoa"

instead of a jolly
Ho Ho Ho" ?

Save 15% on your pet's professional dental cleaning now through January 31, 2010!

Give the gift of life this holiday season.

Have your pet give blood. The Twin Cities Animal Blood Bank is always looking for donors. Call them today to see if your pet qualifies.

612-750-1252