

## Holiday Safety Tips For Your Pets

1. If possible, secure the tree to a banister or a wall or put a gate around the tree. If it's a small tree keep it away from the floor. Remove needles from the floor as they are very toxic if ingested. All eatable ornaments like popcorn, cranberry garlands, etc. should be placed high on the tree.
2. Keep tinsel away from any of your pets. Place glass ornaments at the top of the tree and unbreakable ones near the bottom.
3. Keep lights secure and away from the bottom of the tree. Cats can actually hear the current humming and may chew on the wiring.
4. Spray the tree with an animal repellent to keep pets away.
5. Snow spray used on windows is very toxic. Keep dogs away from the windows or only spray higher than the dogs can reach.
6. Poinsettias are very poisonous and should not be placed on the floor. If you receive plants as a gift and don't know if they are toxic, check with the poison control center or online for any special instructions. If you hang mistletoe, attach it very well to the top of the door, ceiling, etc. If you suspect your dog has eaten a potentially poisonous substance, call your veterinarian or the APCC's emergency hotline at 1-888-4-ANI-HELP.
7. Keep candles out of reach of pets or a wagging tail that may knock them off. Scented Liquid is also dangerous to dogs if they ingest it from decorative bowls and simmering pots.
8. Keep batteries loose and in packages away from dogs. They contain corrosives that can cause ulceration of your pet's mouth, tongue, and gastrointestinal tract if bitten or swallowed.
9. Don't leave any food gifts such as chocolate, cheese, fruitcakes, grapes, raisins and cookies under the tree. Chocolate, especially the darker varieties, can be poisonous to dogs. Keep food away from the edge of the table.
10. Don't overfeed your pet with table scraps, turkey, chicken, steak, etc. Any natural bones can be deadly. After leftovers are placed in the refrigerator, make sure your pet is unable to open it. Some beagles have been known to help themselves to leftovers from the refrigerator.
11. Read labels on cleaning products used on the carpet, upholstery or floors as many are toxic and cause illness to pets.
12. When choosing a gift for your pet, look for ones that are safe. Rotate the gifts every few days, so the pet will have something new to play with and will not chew them all at once.
13. Don't keep your pet outdoors for very long periods in very cold weather. Paws can get frostbite. If your pet has a thin coat, provide a warm sweater to wear during walks. When you get home, wash its paws to remove the dirt and salt which can cause irritation.
14. Know where your pet is at all times when company comes to visit. As people come in and go out the door, a pet can run out without notice.
15. Most of all, please don't give a pet as a Christmas gift. They need a lot of attention and care, and this is a very busy time for all. Give the person a dog or cat collar, birdcage or litter box, and tell them their new companion will arrive after the holiday.
16. Last but not least, give your pet lots of love and attention during this busy season. Keep its schedule as close to normal as possible.