

HOLIDAYtips

FROM PENN VET'S RYAN HOSPITAL



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KEEP PETS SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

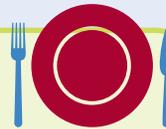
1



DECK THE HALLS

- Tinsel can cut the intestines and cause severe injuries when ingested.
- Electric wires look especially appetizing to puppies and kittens. If they succeed in chewing them, they can suffer burns or shock that can cause seizures, loss of consciousness, and fluid build-up in the lungs.
- Glass ornaments and ornament hooks are hazardous because they break easily. A pet can ingest the splinters, cutting its mouth, esophagus, or intestines.
- Dough ornaments, because of high salt content, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and in severe cases, seizures.

2



FESTIVE FOODS

- Maintain your pet's regular diet. Treats of turkey, ham, gravy, cookies, and other goodies can lead to gastrointestinal upsets such as diarrhea and vomiting.
- Dispose of all bones carefully so that pets cannot get to them. Poultry bones are particularly dangerous, as they can splinter and cut the intestines or get lodged in the esophagus.



- Keep chocolate, nuts, and alcoholic beverages out-of-reach from pets, as they can cause vomiting, diarrhea, or a condition called pancreatitis, which can be deadly. Yeast-containing bread dough can rapidly expand in the warm environment of the stomach and also produce alcohol as it ferments.
- Be sure that everyone in your family knows and understands what your pets can and cannot consume.

3



POISONOUS HOLIDAY PLANTS

- **Poinsettias:** Toxicity from poinsettias is often exaggerated. A healthy dog or cat that eats part of the plant will only display symptoms such as vomiting, lack of appetite, and depression. If a pet ingests part of a poinsettia, restrict food and water for a few hours. Symptoms should only last an hour or two. If they persist, consult your vet.
- **Mistletoe:** Mistletoe berries are the most toxic part of the plant, but are fairly mild in toxicity. If ingested, an animal will display symptoms such as vomiting, lack of appetite, and depression. The risk is dehydration. Pets that are very young or very old may require treatment.
- **Holly:** Spines on holly leaves are sharp and can cause injury to the mouth, tongue, and lips. Gently rinse the animal's mouth with water or provide water or milk for the pet to drink in order to soothe the mouth. If your pet ingests the leaves or berries, it can cause vomiting and diarrhea, which may be more severe than symptoms caused by ingesting other holiday plants.
- **Yew:** Though yew is not typically brought into the house, it is important to know that, if ingested, all parts of this bush are incredibly cardiotoxic, except for the red fleshy portion of the fruit.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Penn Vet's Emergency Service is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Call 215-746-8911 or visit Ryan Hospital at 3900 Spruce Street.