



# Holiday PET SAFETY TIPS



## *Home Away From Home*

Give your pet his own quiet space to retreat to—complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the celebrations. A soft playing radio will also help to minimize the noise coming from your guests.

## *Set House Rules*

If your animal-loving guests would like to give your pets a little extra attention and exercise while you're busy tending to the party, ask them to feel free to start a nice play or combing/petting session. Make sure all of your medications are locked behind secure doors, and be sure to tell your guests to keep their meds zipped up and packed away, too.

## *Enjoy the Holiday Glow*

Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Be sure to use appropriate candle holders, placed on a stable surface. And if you leave the room, put the candle out!

## *Keep Your Tree Standing Upright*

Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria, and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea. Remember to keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. Pick up those pine needles as they may get stuck in the fur of your pet's paws or be ingested.

## *Filling Their Stockings*

Looking to stuff your pet's stockings? Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible, Kong's that can be stuffed with healthy foods or chew treats that are designed to be safely digestible. Long, stringy things are a feline's dream, but the most risky toys for cats involve ribbon, yarn and loose little parts that can get stuck in the intestines, often necessitating surgery. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy or the interactive cat dancer.

## *Mind the Plants*

Plants make a house warm, cozy and pretty but many cats love to eat plants. Make sure to keep poisonous ones away from pets. This includes Poinsettia, Lilly, Amaryllis, Mistletoe and Holly.

## *Eat, Drink and Be Merry*

We all know not to feed our pets chocolate or anything sweetened with xylitol. Make sure to keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food or the leftovers in the garbage. Fatty, spicy foods and bones should not be fed to your furry loved ones. If your celebration includes adult cocktails, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get them. Keep your pet safe and healthy and not spent at the emergency vet. Pets too can join in our festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly vet bills.

