

Tips For Your Pet's Safety During The Busy Holidays

The holidays are a busy time for everyone, filled with food, fun, family and friends. They can also be a time of increased risk to you pet. Here are just a few tips to avoid common risks to our furry friends over the holidays.

With all the tasty food around, your pet is just as tempted as you may be to sample everything on the table. Some common Christmas foods which can cause your pet to become quite ill include chocolate, alcohol, coffee, onions, raisins, grapes, certain nuts, and rich foods such as turkey and grandma's famous gravy. We all love to include our pets in our holiday meals, along with the rest of the family but keep in mind that sudden rich diet changes are likely to upset a pet's stomach. A pet suffering from a sudden onset of diarrhea can add a lot of stress to the household, never mind when it's amongst all your holiday guests.

Pets as we all know are tempted to eat a number of things other than just people food. Christmas plants such as poinsettias, mistletoe, holly and lilies can be toxic to animals. Christmas tree water can contain fertilizers which, if ingested, can cause stomach upset. Try to cover or hide all those extra extension cords which can spark your cat's curiosity, and if chewed on, can electrocute your pet. Shiny or sparkly ribbons are very attractive to your pets and if ingested can get caught up in the intestines and cause an intestinal obstruction which can turn quite dangerous, quite quickly. Batteries contain corrosives and if ingested can cause ulceration to the mouth, tongue, and the rest of the gastro intestinal tract. Glass ornaments, yes even glass ornaments tend to trick our pets into thinking they would make a tasty treat which can also cause severe damage to the gastro intestinal tract if ingested. Don't forget about other seasonal hazards such as antifreeze which has a pleasant taste but ingesting just a small amount can be lethal.

We would like to remind you that the best medicine is prevention, so please take the time to consider just how many of these hazards you may have in your home and ways to reduce these increased risks to your pet. Should your furry family friend fall sick or get into something it probably shouldn't over the holidays, contact your family veterinarian as soon as possible. Have a safe and happy holiday season from all the staff at Van Isle Veterinary Hospital.

