



Holiday Pet Safety Tips



The holidays are a joyous time for people, but can be dangerous for pets. Crowd-pleasing decorations can be choking hazards, festive winter plants can be toxic, and winter weather can cause injuries. Follow the tips below to make sure your pets enjoy the holiday season as much as you do!



Keep toxic holiday plants far from your pets' reach. Some toxic plants include: poinsettias, holly, mistletoe, Christmas rose, and philodendron..



Be mindful of tree decorations and household decorations. Keep small or breakable ornaments high on the tree to avoid breakage and ingestion. Do not decorate with food items.



Stray cats sometimes take shelter inside parked cars. Bang on the hood of your car before starting it to make sure there are no small animals inside.



Keep your pets on their regular diets. It may be tempting to give them some table food, but this can lead to gastrointestinal upset. Never give your pet chocolate, alcohol, or bones.



Thoroughly clean up any antifreeze spills immediately. Pets like the smell and taste, and even a small amount can be lethal.



Avoid using tinsel, as it is a choking hazard to both dogs and cats.



Use a pet-safe ice melt to avoid chemical burns on paw pads. Keep pets off of icy areas to avoid injuries.



Do not keep pets outside too long during very cold weather. Contact the animal hospital right away if you suspect your pet has frostbite or hypothermia. Symptoms of frostbite include red/white/gray skin that may be scaly. Symptoms of hypothermia can include weakness, shivering, and lack of mental alertness.

