

Elburn Animal Hospital Newsletter

Dec. 2018

Welcome

Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving! Christmas will be here in just a few short weeks. For this newsletter, we are going to follow our tradition of the past few years and go over "Holiday pet safety"! If you have any questions or comments or have a topic you would like to hear about please contact our staff at 630-365-9599 or you can contact us via email: 3lburn@sbcglobal.net



Pet safety tips for the holidays

Christmas is almost here, and as we get ready for the holidays, it's important to try and keep your pet's habits as close to normal as possible.

Plan in advance

Make sure to have the phone number and directions to the nearest 24 hour emergency veterinary clinic, as most non-emergency clinics will be closed, and it is best to be prepared.

Two local emergency clinics are:

VCA at 2600 W Galena Blvd in North Aurora, 630-896-8541

Emergency Vet Services at 530 Dunham Rd in St. Charles, 630-584-7447

Also have this number handy -

ASPCA Poison Control Hotline: 1-888-426-4435 (a fee may apply)

Food

Always keep people food away from your pets. If you want your pet's to have some holiday treats, make sure to make or buy treats formulated just for them. The following foods are especially hazardous for pets:

Chocolate - toxicity can vary, it is based on the type of chocolate, the darker the more toxic, the size of the pet and the amount they ate, so it's best just to keep all chocolate off limits to your pets!

Other sweets and baked goods - these should also be kept out of reach. Often they are way too rich for pets, but many can contain xylitol, an artificial sweetener that is extremely toxic to pets, it is also found in many candies and gum. Xylitol has been linked to liver failure and even death in dogs.

Turkey bones and turkey skin -sometimes, even in small amounts, can cause a life-threatening condition in pets known as pancreatitis or a G.I. laceration. You should keep them away from any fatty foods or meats such as ham and many lunch meats, these are very fatty.

Table scraps - including gravy and meat fat, should also be kept away from pets.

Many foods that are healthy for people are poisonous to pets, including onions, raisins and grapes. Macadamia nuts are also extremely toxic to pets.

Yeast dough can cause problems for pets, including painful gas and potentially dangerous bloating.

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Decorating

Greenery, lights and Christmas trees make the holiday festive, but can be a risky temptation for our pets.

Christmas trees can tip over if pets climb on them or try to play with lights or ornaments. Consider tying your tree to the ceiling or a door frame using fishing line to secure it.

Water additives for Christmas trees can be hazardous to your pets. Do not add aspirin, sugar, or anything else to the water for your tree if you have pets in the house. Also the water can become stagnant and can be breeding bacteria, so don't allow your pet to drink from it.

Ornaments and tinsel can cause hazards for pets. Broken ornaments can cause injuries, and ingested ornaments can cause intestinal blockage or even toxicity. Keep any handmade ornaments, especially those made from salt dough or other food based materials out of reach of pets.

Electric lights can cause electrical burns when a curious pet chews the cords or bulbs.

Candles are attractive to pets as well as people. Never leave a pet alone in an area with a lit candle; it could very well result in burned fur, whiskers or a fire.

Flowers and plants can result in an emergency vet visit if your pet gets ahold of them. Amaryllis, mistletoe, balsam, pine, cedar, and holly are among the common holiday plants that can be dangerous and even poisonous to pets

that eat them. Poinsettias can be troublesome as well. To see a complete list of poisonous plants, go to the ASPCA website www.asPCA.org.

Potpourris should be kept out of reach of pets. Liquid potpourris pose risks because they contain essential oils and cationic detergents that can severely damage your pet's mouth, eyes, and skin. Solid potpourris can cause problems if eaten.



Hosting parties and visitors

Visitors can upset pets, as can the noise and excitement of holiday parties. Even pets that aren't normally shy may become nervous with a holiday gathering. Make sure your pet has his own quiet place to retreat to, away from the commotion, where he can be comfortable; someplace comfy and calm away from the noise and people.

Inform your guests ahead of time that you have pets or if there may be other guests bringing pets to your home. Guests with allergies or compromised immune systems need to be aware of the pets in your home so they can take any needed precautions to protect themselves.

Guests with pets - if guests ask to bring their pets and you don't know how the pets will get along, you should politely decline their request or plan to spend

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some time acclimating the pets to each other, supervising their interactions, monitoring for signs of a problem, and taking action to avoid injury to pets or people. It is best just politely tell them to please leave their pet at home.

Pets that are nervous around visitors should be put in another room or a crate in a quiet area, with a favorite toy. If your pet is particularly upset by houseguests, talk with your vet about possible solutions to this common problem.

Exotic pets make some people uncomfortable and may themselves be more stressed by gatherings. Keep exotic pets safely away from the hubbub of the holidays.

Watch the exits. Even if your pets are comfortable around guests, make sure you watch them closely, especially when people are entering or leaving the home. While you are welcoming guests and collecting coats, your pet may make a break for the door and become lost.

Identification tags and microchips have reunited many families! Make sure your pet has proper identification with your current contact information, particularly a microchip with up to date, registered information. If they happen to sneak out, they are more likely to be returned to you. If your pet isn't already microchipped, talk to your vet about this simple procedure.

Clear the food from your table, counters and serving areas when you are done – and make sure the trash gets taken out to where your pet can't reach it. A turkey or chicken carcass or other large quantities of meat out on the table, or left in a trash container that can be easily opened or knocked over, could be deadly to your pet. Dispose of carcasses and bones and anything used to wrap or tie the meat in a covered, tightly secured trash bag placed in a closed trash can outdoors or behind a closed or locked door.

Trash also should be cleared away from where pets can reach it, especially ribbon and other packaging or decorative items that could be tempting for your pet to play with or consume.

When you leave the house

Unplug decorations while you are not at home. Cats, dogs, and other pets are often tempted to chew electrical cords.

Take out the trash to make sure your pets can't get to it, especially if it contains any food scraps.



Holiday travel

Interstate and international travel regulations require any pet you bring with you to have a health certificate from your veterinarian, some even if you're traveling by car. Learn the requirements for any state you will visit or pass through, and schedule an appointment with your vet to get the needed certificate within the timeframes required by that state.

Pets in vehicles should always be safely restrained and should never be left alone in the car in any weather. Proper restraint means using a secure harness or a carrier, placed in a location of airbags. Never transport your pet unsecured in a bed of a truck.

If you're traveling by air and considering bringing your pet along, talk with your veterinarian first. Air travel can put some

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pets at risk, especially short-nosed dogs.

Your veterinarian is the best person to advise you regarding your pets travel.

Pack for your pet as well as yourself if you're going to travel together. In addition to food for your pet, make sure to pack medications, copies of medical records, information to help identify your pet if it becomes lost, first aid supplies, favorite toys, etc.

Boarding your dog while you travel? Talk with your vet to find out how best to protect your pet from canine flu and other contagious diseases and make sure your pet is up to date on vaccines. Boarding facilities will have a list of requirements your pet has to meet before they will allow your pet to be boarded at their facility.

Also, if you have never boarded your pet before, go to the facility first and ask for a tour. Check out more than one facility before you decide on one, but you need to do this as soon as you can, reservations for boarding kennels fill up quickly during the holidays. If time allows plan on your dog spending a day or night to see how they do there.



WISHING
EVERYONE A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR!

