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A Safe Holiday Season for Pets

The Holidays are for giving, but make sure your pet is getting safe, healthy presents this year.

Chocolate – Bad for Pets

A delightful treat for humans is chocolate. But that same treat for pets can cause the animal severe medical reactions. Chocolate contains theobromine, which is found in chocolate liquor – a common element in chocolate. Pets that consume chocolate may have various reactions such as, vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, tremors, seizures, racing heart rhythm and death in severe cases. If your pet consumes chocolate, you should take it to your veterinarian immediately. It may take up to four days for the effects of the chocolate to stop.

Poinsettia – Beautiful & Itchy

This traditional Holiday plant looks nice on the coffee table, but it pet's can't appreciate its true beauty. If you cat or dog chews on or consumes a poinsettia, it may cause irritation of the mouth and stomach. The irritation may be temporary, but you should contact your veterinarian for advice. The good news is that poinsettias are not known to be toxic.

Mistletoe – Kiss, But Don't Eat

There are several different species of mistletoe. Some mistletoe may cause irritation or may upset your pet's stomach, if eaten. However, a few types of mistletoe may cause liver failure or seizures. Therefore, all mistletoe should be treated as dangerous to pets.

Lights – Festive and Dangerous

Everyone loves Holiday lights this time of year, and so do your pets, especially cats and puppies. Your pet is merely being curious and is unaware of the inherent danger. If your pet were to bite through a light cord, it could result in a severe burn to the tongue. A burn to the tongue may cause your pet's lungs to fill with fluid, causing respiratory distress. If this occurs, please seek veterinary attention immediately.

Ribbons & Tinsel – Handle with Care

Ribbons and tinsel seem like natural cats toys, at least your cat may think that way. However, while they shine and sparkle, they may be a hazard to your pet. Take care to make sure your pet doesn't swallow or chew on ribbons or tinsel. Swallowed ribbons may lodge in the GI tract of your pet and may cause the intestine to bunch and the pet naturally tries to rid its body of the foreign object. A swallowed ribbon or tinsel is life threatening, which may need surgery. Pets should be brought to your veterinary clinic immediately.

Disclaimer: This written content is meant to be educational and is not medical advice. Always consult a veterinarian about medical advice for your pet.