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Holiday Hazards for Pets

With the holiday season fast approaching, it is worth remembering some things that can be dangerous to pets during this time of year:

- 1) Avoid feeding pets fatty foods like pork, bacon, turkey, turkey skin, prime rib, duck, and gravy. While dogs and cats love these foods, they can cause pancreatitis which can be a life threatening disease and very expensive to treat
- 2) Avoid onions, raisins and grapes as they can be toxic to the liver and kidneys.
- 3) Do not feed bones – chicken, beef or pork – they may fracture and perforate the intestines, break teeth or the fat from the marrow may cause pancreatitis
- 4) Keep candy, especially chocolate and anything made with xylitol sweetener, and uncooked bread dough out of reach of dogs and cats
- 5) Securely anchor the Christmas tree so it won't fall over and put a guard around the tree base so pets don't try to drink the water from the tree stand – the fertilizers used to keep the tree alive can be toxic to pets as can mold and bacteria which may grow in the water.
- 6) Avoid Holly, Mistletoe, Lilly, Daffodil, Amaryllis, Poinsettia – they can all be toxic to pets if ingested
- 7) Do not use tinsel on the tree, especially if you have a young puppy or any cats in the house. The shiny tinsel is very appealing and if ingested can cause intestinal obstruction requiring surgery.
- 8) Don't leave lit candles unattended – dog and cat tails can knock them over and cause a house fire or they be burned by them
- 9) Keep all wires, batteries, and all ornaments out of reach of dogs and cats they may be too tempting to avoid ingesting.
- 10) Make sure all medications and any recreational marijuana up and out of reach of pets – this includes family as well as house guests
- 11) Be sure any alcoholic beverages are out of reach of pets – many are very sweet tasting and may be inviting to a dog or cat to drink them which may make them ill.
- 12) Remember that if your pet is fearful of fireworks, to speak to your veterinarian before New Years, to obtain medication to relieve their anxiety. If you are not going to be home on New Year's be sure your pets are securely locked in your house or in a dog crate to prevent self-injury, damage to the home, or an escape out a window or door.

Have a joyous and safe holiday season!

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