



Holiday Pet Safety Tips

Humane Society Calumet Area * 421 45th Street * 219-922-3811 * www.hscalumet.org



Keep Human Food Away from Pets – If you feed your pet a little turkey, make sure it is boneless and well-cooked. Make sure platters of food are out of reach and that guests don't leave discarded plates or napkins within reach. Fatty, spicy, and food with bones should not be fed to pets. Avoid giving your pet poultry skin, beef or pork fat. These high sodium, fatty foods can cause inflammation of the pancreas.

Other foods to avoid: macadamia nuts, turkey bones, sage, chocolate (all forms), onions, nutmeg, grapes, raisins, moldy or spoiled food, salt, coffee (all forms), products sweetened with xylitol, and sweets. See more information at <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/people-foods.aspx>.



Keep Holiday Tree and Decorations Secure – Dangling or stringy decorations are attractive to pets, but can lead to cuts from broken glass, digestive problems or bowel obstructions from ingested parts. Stagnant tree water breeds bacteria and you pet may experience diarrhea, vomiting or upset stomach if ingested. Securely anchor your tree to it is not easy for climbing cats or curious canines to knock it down.



No Tinsel for the Cat – Tinsel is just too shiny and stringy for cats to resist so make sure any used in decorating is well out of your kitty's reach. If swallowed it can obstruct their digestive tract, create vomiting, dehydration and a potential need for surgery.



Secure, Hide or Cover Electrical Cords – Tape down your electrical cords for lights or other decorations so pets don't chew them and get an electrical shock



No Garbage Pickers, Please – Pets love to see if you've thrown away something fun, so make sure unwanted food scraps, gift wrapping, and packaging from opened presents are disposed of safely. Make sure small pieces from toys or gifts are placed out of reach of curious pets. Cooked poultry bones are hollow and break or splinter easily creating a choking hazard or may block or tear intestines.



Supervise Pets around Candles or Open Flame – Pets can knock over lit candles creating a fire hazard or may burn themselves on open flames. Place candles in stable holders on flat surfaces and put them out when you leave the room.



Beware of Holiday Plants – Mistletoe, Holly, Poinsettias and Lilies are all toxic to dogs and cats and can create nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea if eaten. Certain plants affect different animals and breeds differently. See a full illustrated list of toxic plants at <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>.



Update Your Pet's ID Tags and Vaccinations – Make sure your pet's ID tags and vaccines are current. While this should be done year-round, it's important during the holidays due busy households. A house full of strangers may stress your pet and they might run out the door or be accidentally let out by a guest.



Put Medications Away – Ask guests to make sure their medications are safely packed away. Even a small dose of pain killers, cold medicine, antidepressants, vitamins, diet pills or other humane medications can be lethal to pets. See a list of top 10 human medications that poison pets at <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/top-10-human-medications-that-poison-our-pets.aspx>.



Create a Safe Haven – Place a blanket over a pet crate and put it in a quiet corner of the house or make sure no one goes in the room where your pet hides under the bed. Pets don't always adapt well to change or too much noise. You know your pet best, so create a plan so they have a comfortable place to take a break from the bustle. This is particularly important on New Year's Eve during fireworks displays or other noisy celebrations.



Keep Emergency Phone Numbers Handy – Post the phone numbers for your veterinarian, a 24-hour pet hospital and the Animal Poison Control Center (www.asPCA.org)

