

PET CONNECTION HOLIDAY CONCERNS FOR YOUR PET

The holidays are coming, time to decorate and bake those rich foods and gather with friends and family to celebrate. However some of the things we do as tradition can be hazardous to our pets.

DECORATIONS

Tinsel and ribbon are the most common decorations that our pets get into. They are shiny and bright and are very inviting, especially cats. When ingested they could cause obstruction within the intestines and the tinsel's sharp edges can even cut into the intestines and cause even more problems. Surgery is usually required to remove the tinsel or ribbon and to repair any further damage that may have happened. Symptoms to look for are vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite. If you notice any of these signs contact your veterinarian immediately. Other decorations to be cautious of are small ornaments that can be easily ingested. Glass décor that can easily break when dropped or chewed, electrical cords should be plugged in where they out of reach, especially for kittens and puppies. Should your animal chew on an electrical cord, the electrical current from the live cord can cause life-threatening problems. Call your veterinarian immediately. Also make sure to cover the water to the Christmas tree so your animals don't drink it.

RICH FOODS AND CHOCOLATE

Do not feed your animal table scraps, especially the fatty ones. Table food is for people only! Table scraps can cause vomiting and diarrhea, not to mention weight gain.

While chocolate is a favorite treat for us, it can be very toxic to our pets. Keep all chocolate away from your pet. Toxicity is caused by methyloxanthine, a component of cocoa. Methyloxanthine is higher in dark chocolate and cocoa beans compared to milk chocolate. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, excitability, trembling, and seizures. If you suspect your pet has eaten chocolate contact your veterinarian immediately, when calling know what type of chocolate (sweet, semisweet, dark or light) your pet has eaten, how much and when.

PLANTS

Many of the common plants we use or give during the holidays are poisonous to our pets. To name a few: mistletoe, holly, Christmas berry, ivy, pine needles, poinsettias, juniper berries, ferns, and lilies. If you do receive these plants as gifts put them up high to keep them away from your pets. If you are unsure if the plant is poisonous or not, call your veterinarian and ask or look it up on-line at www.avma.org. If you feel your pet has ingested any part of a toxic plant call your veterinarian immediately for treatment.

We are here to help. For assistance with these or any concerns regarding your pet, please call us at:

262-679-1200