



Pet Care: Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays can be an exciting time with people visiting, lots of packages, lights, music, trees, wonderful smells from the kitchen, and days getting busier and busier. To ease your pet's stress, try to keep her routine the same.

A real-live tree right in the house! How thoughtful! Separating the tree from your pet for the first few days is a good idea so that 'marking' can't occur.

Consider using fishing line to secure your tree to the ceiling or wall in case of any accidents, and placing breakable ornaments in higher spots. Also, check out the solution you mix with water for your tree. That and pinesap can be a dangerous drink for thirsty pupsters. Try covering the base around the stand with a skirt.

If your pet is a chewer, try placing electrical cords or light strings in out-of-reach areas. Fluffy tails and candles could be a problem too. Place candles in higher spots such as on tables or mantles.

Some holiday plants such as poinsettias, mistletoe, and berries are extremely dangerous to pets if ingested. If you plan on decorating with plants and flowers, consult your veterinarian for an exact listing.

Pets can be easily enticed with all the wrapping paper, ribbons, tags, and bows around the home. These items can be pretty serious if ingested too. Have a designated helper on 'paper patrol'.

Holiday food and pastries are very tempting for our pets and us. However, ingredients like chocolate can be dangerous. Special holiday toys, pet biscuits and treats are available at most major pet supply stores. To your pet, having new toys and treats are always fun, especially at the holidays!