



# HOLIDAY SAFETY 101

Ref: ASPCA and Pet Poison Helpline

**Pet safety is important year round but the holidays bring many holiday-related decorations, plants and food items that need special attention. Avoid the following hazards so you and your furry friend can enjoy a safe and stress free holiday!**



**Ribbons, tinsel or strings of any kind may be fun to play with but if ingested, obstructions of your pets intestinal tract may occur. Christmas tree ornaments often look like toys through your pets eyes so keep ornaments out of reach. Ornament ingestion can lead to severe damage of your pet gastrointestinal system.**

**Alcoholic and caffeinated beverages are toxic to your furry friend so keep these out of reach at all times.**

**Poinsettias, mistletoe, hollies and lilies are great for your centerpiece but bad for your pet. Ingestion can cause gastrointestinal upset, lethargy, irritation to the tissue lining the mouth and stomach, and in severe cases, kidney failure in cats.**

**Some sugarless gums and candies contain xylitol, which is toxic to cats and dogs by potentially causing a life threatening drop in blood sugar level and/or liver failure.**

**Despite your best efforts, if your pet becomes poisoned please contact us immediately. Do not wait for symptoms to occur. Have the following information available: What was ingested, how much and when. The more information you can provide the better your veterinarian can appropriately treat your loved one. ASPCA animal poison center (1-888-4ANI-HELP)**

**Fatty meats and side dishes with a high fat content (i.e gravy) can cause inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) which leads to abdominal pain, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and/or inappetance.**

**Chocolates and cocoa (containing theobromine) are toxic to your pet. Ingestion of small amounts can cause nausea, diarrhea and/or vomiting. Large amounts may cause seizures and heart arrhythmias.**

**Onion and garlic (including powder forms) can lead to anemia (a decrease in red blood cells) and gastrointestinal upset. Onion and garlic poisoning can have a delayed onset, if you suspect ingestion call your veterinary immediately.**

**Unattended candles can be knocked over or catch fire to your pet fur as they prance by carefree. Also, lights are exciting for your pets and maybe confused for a toy. Keep all light strands and electrical cords out of reach. Chewed wires can lead to severe burns, electrocution and possibly death.**

***Be Safe and Happy Holidays!***

