

# Protecting Your Pet From Holiday Hazards

The holiday season can be a fun and exciting time for you and your family - but it can be a dangerous time for your pets! Outlined here are some common household hazards to avoid in order to help your pet have a safe and happy holiday.



## Decorations

**Household Plants:** Mistletoe, holly, lilies, pine, and poinsettias are all potentially dangerous to your pets if eaten.



**Christmas Tree Water:** The water may contain dangerous fertilizers and bacteria. Also, do not add aspirin to your Christmas tree water!

**Tinsel, Confetti, and Wrappers:** All of these can block your pet's intestines.

### Ornaments and Snow Globes:

Ornament pieces and hooks can damage your pet's stomach and intestines. Snow globes often contain toxic antifreeze, so clean them up immediately if broken.



### Lit Candles and Extension

**Cords:** Keep these out of your pet's reach to avoid burn injuries.

## Human Foods

**Fatty Foods:** That Christmas ham may be tasty, but it can cause stomach pain, vomiting, and diarrhea in your pets. Avoid giving them foods like pork and bacon as well.



**Caffeine:** Make sure that after-dinner coffee or tea is for humans only! Caffeine can cause heart problems and vomiting in animals.



### Raisins and Grapes:

These are known to cause kidney failure in pets, and are also a choking hazard, so use caution when passing around the fruit plate!

**Bones:** Eating any type of bone is a health risk and can pierce or block your pet's intestines.

**Chocolate:** Enjoy your dessert, but avoid giving any chocolate to your pets. Be especially wary of baking chocolate.



**Alcohol:** Even in small amounts, alcohol can make your pets very sick.



**Other things to avoid:** Onions, avocados, milk, sweets, tobacco products, bread dough, nuts, moldy foods, and human medications.



## Pet Toys and Clothing

Thinking about getting Fluffy a gift for Christmas? Be sure to consider your pet's safety when choosing. Avoid toys or clothing with small parts – especially metal parts – and make sure toys are not small enough for your pet to swallow! You should also choose toys without potentially toxic materials or dyes. If you have concerns about a particular item, contact your pet's veterinarian.

## Other Resources

If your pet eats any of the items listed here, the most important first step is to [contact a veterinarian](#).

If your veterinarian is not available, you can contact these services for help:

**Pet Poison Helpline:** (800) 213-6680

**ASPCA Poison Control Center:** (888) 426-4435

**NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine wishes you and your pets a safe and happy holiday!**

