



We all want to enjoy a merry and bright holiday season with our family, friends, and pets! Here are some tips from LHS to help keep your pets safe and healthy during this fun time of the year.

Oh, Christmas Tree!

- Curious noses and paws can bring a Christmas tree down (especially if you have a tree-climbing cat!)—anchor your tree to the wall or something secure to keep it from tipping over
- Vacuum up needles that have fallen so critters won't eat them
- Don't let pets drink tree water which can contain fertilizers, fire retardants, and other nasty chemicals

Decking the Halls

- Keep glass ornaments up high on the tree or on high tables out of reach of paws and wagging tails
- Skip the tree tinsel or only use it where it's completely out of reach—cats are especially tempted by the shiny strands and it's harmful to any pet who swallows it
- Twinkling lights make the season bright, but they bring with them lots of electric cords and wires—bundle wires to keep them compact, wrap them to prevent biting, and try to hide them if possible
- Skip the confetti at New Year's Eve parties, which can wreck havoc on a pet's intestines if swallowed

Stocking Stuffers

- Pets love new toys and get into the excitement of gift opening!
- Be selective when shopping and avoid pet toys that may easily fall apart into small pieces and be swallowed
- Pick up used gift wrap, tape, ribbon, and bows which could be chewed and swallowed

Cozy Candles and Fireplaces

- Never burn candles unattended and make sure they're up high enough to keep whiskers and tails from getting singed
- Use a screen around your fireplace to prevent burns

Festive Holiday Plants

- Fresh poinsettias, holly, and mistletoe can make pets extremely sick if ingested—go with the artificial versions or place these plants up high on mantles

Holiday Foods and Cocktails

- Resist sharing your holiday dinner with your pets and keep pets away from the table when unattended—*remember, people food is for people!*
- Rich, fatty, and spicy foods can really hurt an animal, as well as meat bones and other things—do not be tempted to share with your pets
- Watch that garbage can, which can smell like a delicious smorgasbord to pets—empty it promptly or keep it behind closed doors
- Don't share your cocktails with animals and keep glasses out of reach

Too Much Holiday Cheer

- Pets can get overwhelmed with loud, large crowds—make sure to have a quiet place for your pet to escape for some downtime
- At parties, check on your pet often and consider putting him or her to bed if the merry-making is too stressful
- Have a bed and fresh water available at all times and stick to your regular feeding schedule
- Make sure your pets continue to receive exercise even when you're busy with holiday plans—exercise is extremely important to overall health and helps prevent boredom and destructive behavior (i.e. playing with breakable ornaments, Christmas tree-climbing)

LHS wishes you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!