

## Welcome

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Well, can you believe December is already here and Christmas is just a few short weeks away! Where did the year go!! In this months newsletter we are focusing on having a pet safe holiday season. And we are giving you some wintertime tips for your furry friends.



## Christmas Safety Tips for your Pets

This is a very busy time of year for most of us, not to mention stressful. We celebrate with foods, gifts, and parties. This time of year can be stressful for our pets as well. Hopefully we can help you get through this exciting time of year with a little more ease. Following we have listed some Holiday tips for you and your pets.

1) If you have a Christmas tree in your home there are several things to keep in mind. You shouldn't decorate your tree with anything edible, such as popcorn and should not decorate with anything that has loose strings, like tinsel. You should also not place any edible gifts under the tree. Place small breakable ornaments high out of your pets reach, as these are also choking hazards for your pet. If you have a fresh tree, keep in mind your pet may try to chew on the needles or branches, and can also get pine needles stuck in his feet. Also, in the case of a fresh tree, never add chemicals to the water and cover the base tightly with a tree skirt so your pet cannot have access to the water.

2) We all love beautiful colorful Christmas lights, but remember these and the cords can be a danger to our pets. Make sure all electrical cords and connections are well covered and concealed from your pet. Make sure cords are taped to the walls or have a covering on them to prevent your pet from chewing.

3) Make sure to keep all holiday plants out of reach of your pets, many of these such as poinsettias and mistletoe are poisonous and can cause vomiting, diarrhea, or more serious issues.

4) Keep stockings, candy dishes, etc. that may be filled with candy and other treats out of your pets reach. Chocolate can be toxic and sweets in general are just not healthy. Xylitol, a sugar substitute which can be found in many candies, soft drinks, and sugar free gum (Orbit) is extremely toxic to your pets. And make sure you guest are not freely giving out treats to your pet.

5) When hosting a celebration of a party, it is better to keep your pet put away in a room where they can be comfortable, away from the noise and festivities that can cause him to be nervous and stressed. If your pet is the type that likes to socialize, leave him out only for a little while, and then put him in a room where he can rest and be comfortable, and not become overwhelmed.

6) When your dinner is over and your are putting away leftovers, please DO NOT give any bones to your pet, throw these away where your pet cannot get to them. Bones are very dangerous, as they can cause internal damage or become lodged in your pets' throat. Also do not give your pet chocolate, candy or cookies, as these can be toxic. If you want to give your pet a treat, a small piece of turkey breast without the fat and bone, or a piece of baked sweet potato without butter or sugar, will be a good treat for him.

7) After you and your family have finished opening gifts, make sure to quickly throw away all wrapping paper, ribbons, plastic bags, etc. These are all things that can be a choking hazard for your pet.

8) With all the coming and going at this time of year, please make sure to have proper identification on your pet at all times and make sure there is a current phone number on the tag. If he were to get lost, you will have a much greater chance of finding him.



### PRESENTS FOR YOUR PETS

I think most of us consider our pets a part of our families, and want to treat them to a Christmas present as well.

Dogs like nothing better than something to chew on. There are many safe chew toys and bones you can purchase for your dog. Nyla bones, dental bones, dental chews, and Kong toys are some of the best, and you don't have to worry about them breaking apart. Or your dog may prefer a stuffed toy. Make sure there are no small parts that may come off and become lodged in your pets' throat or stomach. And there are also many low calorie, natural treat on the market for you dog to enjoy.

If you are buying for a cat, make sure that there are no long, loose strings attached to any toy, as these can become twisted around your cat's tongue or tangled in his throat and cause serious problems. There are also many safe, healthy treats for cats at your local pet suppliers today.

### WINTER TIPS FOR YOUR PETS

Along with this season come the snow, ice and freezing temperatures. If your pet spends much time outside, make sure they have a warm dry place to take shelter. If at all possible, when the temperatures are really low, try to keep your pet indoors.

When taking your pet for a walk, make sure to dry his feet when you get home. The sidewalks and driveways are being covered with ice and snow melter and these can be harmful to your pets' skin, and also harmful if ingested. Also be careful that your pet doesn't become frostbitten. If you suspect your pet has suffered frostbite, don't rub the area, don't apply warm water to the area, just wrap in a blanket and try to warm the area up and contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. If your pet has very short hair, you may want to purchase a sweater and boots for the bad weather days. Also, if your dog has long hair, check the pads of his feet after going for a walk

or being out in the snow, you want to make sure there is no snow or ice stuck and frozen into the hair on the pads of his feet.



### Christmas Collection for Rover Rescue and HELP

This year we are collecting donations for Rover Rescue and HELP. To see their wish list log onto [roverrescue.org](http://roverrescue.org) and click on the link that says Help Us. For HELP log onto [helpinganimals.org](http://helpinganimals.org), click on the link that says donate and you will see their wish list. We will be accepting donations through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>!

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like more information, visit our website at [www.elburnanimalhospital.com](http://www.elburnanimalhospital.com), or give us a call at (630) 365-9599. If you would like to opt out of receiving our newsletter, please send an email to us at [3lburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3lburn@sbcglobal.net).



We at Elburn Animal Hospital wish you  
and your families and pets a wonderful  
Christmas and Safe and Happy New Year!



Do you have an idea for a newsletter? A question you'd like answered about caring for your pet? Email us at [3lburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3lburn@sbcglobal.net) and let us know! We are always interested in what you have to say, and what you want to know.