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HOLIDAY PET SAFETY TIPS

The Holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate with family and loved ones, but it can also be a stressful and dangerous time for your family pet, here are some tips to help keep your pet safe during this joyous season:

- Hang breakable decorations and tinsel well out of a paw's reach. Tinsel, ribbon, and ornaments are especially dangerous to pets if chewed and swallowed.
- Place holiday plants out of your pet's reach. Some seasonal plants can be poisonous including mistletoe, holly berries and poinsettias. Poinsettias and evergreen trees can all be dangerous if eaten by your pets. Also, make sure your pet is not able to drink the water your Christmas tree is in.
- Make sure all strands of lights, loose wires, and extension cords are out of your pet's reach. Pets, especially puppies, often try to chew on these cords. This could lead to your pet being burned, shocked, or electrocuted.
- Be sure your Christmas tree has a flat, wide base. Be sure to secure the tree well in the base, in case your pet decides to try to climb up it. Anchoring your tree to the wall is recommended to keep it from being knocked over by a curious climber.
- Use caution when having open flames burning in your home. Be sure to keep an eye on candles and fireplaces, especially with cats in the house.
- Ask guests not to feed your pets. Also, do not give your pet alcohol during the holidays EVER.
- Chocolate is especially harmful to animals. Some of the ingredients in chocolate are toxic and can be fatal to pets.
- If you have any food in gift packages, don't leave it under the tree. Animals have a very strong sense of smell and may try to eat the gift.
- If you are having lots of company coming to your house this holiday, try to give your animal a room to retreat for peace and quiet. Also, this helps prevent the animal from darting outside with the coming and going of people.
- Keep the number of your veterinarian or the local emergency nearby in case of an emergency.