Holiday Safety Tips for Dogs & Cats

Trupanion™
Medical insurance for the life of your pet.

Simple safety tips to avoid some not-so holly jolly holiday hazards.
OH, CHRISTMAS TREE
Timber! Keep your tree securely upright to protect your climbing cat or excited dog. Clean up pine needles frequently, and use a tight-fitting tree skirt to restrict your pet’s access to the tree’s water. Both can be harmful if consumed!

TINSEL, RIBBONS, AND BOWS, OH MY
Consumed, broken, or chewed decorations can cause serious health problems, so keep tinsel, ornaments, and wrapping paper out of reach and tuck string light cords out of sight.

FOREIGN BODY INGESTION CLAIMS FOR CATS INCREASE BY 14% IN DECEMBER.
POISONOUS PLANTS
Decking the halls with boughs of holly (and mistletoe and poinsettias) may bring the holiday spirit, but if your pet ingests any of these plants, they can get very sick. Keep these holiday plants away from paws’ reach or opt for artificial plants instead.

WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS LIKE DROOLING, DIARRHEA, AND ABDOMINAL PAIN.

CANDLE CALAMITY
Keep Menorah and other candles far enough away from pets that they can’t knock them over and potentially start a fire. Consider choosing electric candles instead; flameless candles flicker just like the real thing, but without the fire risk.

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR
Fireworks, poppers, and champagne make for an exciting New Year celebration for humans, but your pet might feel otherwise. Keep them relaxed by providing a quiet room with a fan, TV, or music playing to create white noise.

PARTY PEOPLE
Lots of unfamiliar faces and loud talking can stress your pets out. Exercise your dog beforehand and give them a special chew toy to keep them distracted. If they still seem stressed, put them in a quiet room away from all the commotion. Cats will probably hide all on their own.
SNOW GLOBE SNOW-NOS
Snow globes can contain ethylene glycol, better known as antifreeze. If you drop or break one, they can cause a lot of harm, especially to your small dog, puppy, or cat. If they lick the liquid, immediately go to the closest emergency veterinary hospital.

FESTIVE FOOD FIASCOS
It’s best to keep your cat or dog on their regular diet during the holidays, but you can mix some pet safe human food in with their regular meal for a special treat. Check with your veterinarian for a full list of foods that are pet safe.

TRUPANION SEES 2.5 TIMES MORE CHOCOLATE TOXICITY CLAIMS IN DECEMBER THAN THE REST OF THE YEAR.

KEEP AWAY FROM PETS:
• Chocolate
• Fatty food, like gravy
• Spicy food
• Cooked bones
• Alcoholic beverages

SAFE TO EAT:
• Pumpkin
• Peanut butter
• Sweet potato
• Carrot
• Green beans