

Hello! Greetings from Central Utah Wag-N-Train Dog Rescue and Training, Inc.
Here's our December 2002 Training and Safety Tips E-mail Newsletter! Enjoy!

Holiday Safety Tips For Your Pets

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate with family and loved ones, but it can be a stressful and dangerous time for your family pets. Now that the holidays are upon us, Wag-N-Train would like to offer the following tips to help keep your pets safe.

Alcohol and pets DO NOT mix. Place your unattended alcoholic drinks where your pets cannot reach them. The same is true for leftovers. Poultry bones can splinter and cause blockages and greasy or fatty foods can cause stomach upset.

Keep your pets away from holiday treats, especially chocolate. Theobromine and caffeine, active ingredients found in chocolate are toxins and can be fatal to some animals.

Be careful with holiday decorations. Common Yuletide plants such as poinsettia, mistletoe, ivy and holly berries can be poisonous or even fatal. Also be careful when decorating with tinsel, ribbon and popcorn strands as they can be deadly if swallowed by your pet.

Cover the base of your tree tightly with skirting. Christmas tree water may contain dangerous fertilizers and can be a breeding ground for bacteria, causing mouth sores, vomiting, diarrhea and loss of appetite.

Cover electrical cords with PVC pipe or conduit. Pets, especially puppies, often try to chew them and may get badly burned, shocked or electrocuted. Make sure your strands of lights; loose wires and extension cords are out of reach.

Metal ornament hooks can get caught in curious mouths. Use ribbon or yarn instead of hooks to hang your ornaments

In addition to the Holidays, Winter time in general can be a dangerous time. Here's some tips to protect your pets from the Big Chill:

Anti-freeze, even in small amounts can be deadly. The sweet taste can attract pets so keep it out of your pets reach and clean up any spills immediately.

Pets that go outside can accumulate rock salt, ice and chemical ice melts in their foot pads. To keep pads from getting chapped and raw, wipe their feet with a washcloth when pets come inside.

Cats will curl up against almost anything to get warm. Before you start your engine rap on the hood or honk the horn to encourage any sleeping cat to move on quickly.

Be particularly gentle with elderly or arthritic pets during the winter. The cold can leave their joints extremely stiff and tender and they may be more awkward than usual. Consider modifying their environment to make it easier for them to get around.

Dogs with short coats or smaller dogs with little body mass will chill quicker and may need a sweater or coat when going outdoors and should never be left for extended

periods of time outdoors during cold or wet weather.

Frostbite and Hypothermia are dangerous possibilities in the winter for pets that are left outdoors and/or are left overexposed to cold temperatures. Provide outdoor pets with a shelter with dry, thick bedding such as straw or other dry material to help them stay warm and protected .

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