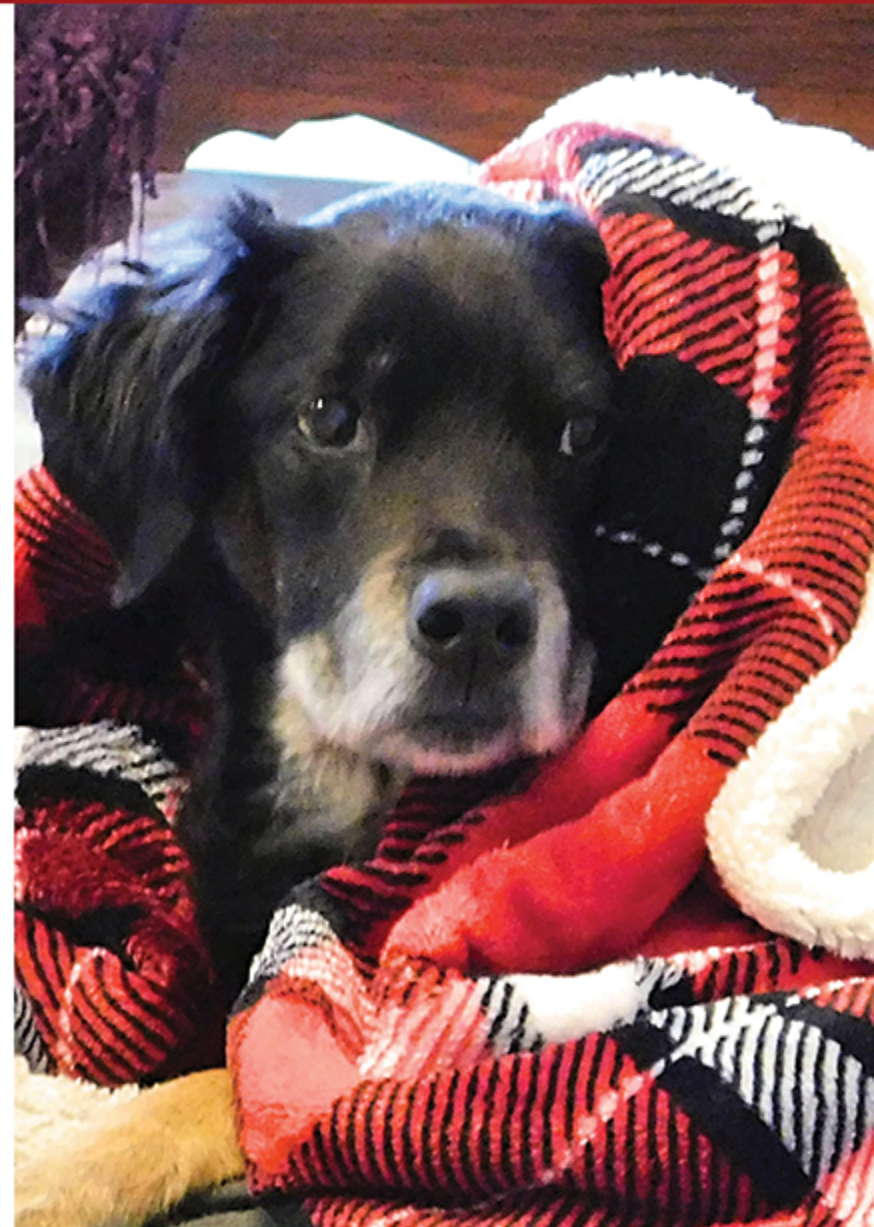


HOLIDAY PET SAFETY

Keep your pet out of the hospital and snuggled up beside you, by following our top 10 tips for a pet-safe holiday season.

1 DON'T SHARE TOXIC HOLIDAY FOODS WITH YOUR PET

Food high in fat (such as buttery or fried dishes) and toxic food (such as raisins, chocolate, and treats containing xylitol) can be potentially harmful to your pet and should be avoided.



2 STEER CLEAR OF HIGH-FAT TREATS

While turkey trimmings, butter-laden mashed potatoes, and gravy are not exactly toxic to pets, their high fat content makes them dangerous treats.

Your pet eats the same low-fat food every day, and if you shock their GI tract with a high-fat meal, they can develop pancreatitis.



3 PET-PROOF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Pet shenanigans can topple a tree, causing bodily injury from broken ornaments or from getting caught in the fall.

Secure your tree to the wall with heavy fishing line and keep your pet out of the room when the tree is unattended. Keep loose strings, garland, and other hanging items out of your pet's reach.



4 SKIP EDIBLE DECORATIONS

Your kids may love to make salt dough ornaments or string popcorn and cranberry garlands, but edible decorations will make your tree more tempting to your pet and can cause obstructions to your pet's GI tract if ingested.



5 DON'T LET YOUR PET DRINK FROM THE TREE STAND

The water in your Christmas tree stand likely contains fertilizers that have leached from the tree, bacteria and mold, or added chemicals.

Never add chemicals to your tree water, and cover the tree stand to keep your pet safe.



6 AVOID PET-TOXIC ESSENTIAL OILS

Oils typically cause problems for dogs only when ingested. But diffused oils can land on a cat's fur and be groomed off or breathed in, causing respiratory irritation.

Keep bottles stored where your pet cannot accidentally knock over and spill them. And, if you share your home with a feline friend, steer clear of diffusing these toxic oils around them.

Oils known to cause toxicity include:

- Tea tree (i.e., melaleuca)
- Wintergreen
- Pine
- Cinnamon
- Peppermint
- Clove
- Eucalyptus
- Pennyroyal

7 TUCK CORDS OUT OF YOUR PET'S REACH

Naughty puppies and kittens can chew electrical cords from your Christmas tree lights, holiday village houses, and other twinkling decorations.

Chewing through a cord can cause oral burns or electrocution or start a fire, so tuck all cords out of the way where curious kitties and pups cannot get to them.



8 LEAVE TOXIC PLANTS OUT OF YOUR DECOR

Fresh garland and a holly centerpiece add festive flair, but many common holiday plants are toxic to pets.

Plant varieties that can cause toxicity include:

- Amaryllis
- Balsam
- Cedar
- Christmas cactus
- Holly
- Mistletoe
- Pine
- Poinsettias (mild irritation)



9 PLAN A SEPARATE PARTY FOR YOUR PET

If your pet becomes anxious around guests, they may appreciate a solo party in a quiet room, where they can relax away from the hubbub.

Play soft music to drown out party noise, and prepare a special treat, such as a KONG[®] filled with canned food, to keep them busy.



10 ENSURE YOUR PET'S I.D. IS UP TO DATE

A nervous pet may try to bolt through the door. A collar and identification tag can help your pet return home if they are found by a neighbor. If your pet has a microchip, check that your information is up to date in a national database.

We hope you and your pet enjoy a safe and healthy holiday season!

