

NEWS RELEASE.....

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The “12 Tips of Christmas” – A safety guide for Pet Owners During the Holiday Season

Farmington Hills, Mich., November 13, 2004 – Let the countdown begin! Here are the “twelve tips of Christmas” to help keep your dog (or any other pets) safe during the eventful holiday season. They will keep your holidays safe, healthy, and happy!

1. Anticipate your guest's arrivals and confine your dog to prevent it from escaping or worse yet “soiling” your guest’s clothes with an unwanted jump.
2. Reduce your dog's stress by maintaining its regular feeding and exercise routine. Develop a routine for your dog during holiday parties. A special treat in a special room of your house works well.
3. Put packages out of reach! Dogs who smell food in a package will rip it open. Food is the number one holiday hazard for dogs. The foods that we eat can cause havoc on an animal's intestines. Put away children's toys after they are opened. Ingested toys can cause choking and may have to be removed through surgery.
4. Tell guests not to share indulgences with your pet. Poultry skin, fat trimmings, rich gravies, and buttery sauces can cause severe vomiting,

diarrhea, or even worse, a life threatening inflammation of the pancreas.

Also, remember that an ounce of alcoholic beverage can put a small dog into a coma.

5. Stow chocolate candy or baking ingredients out of reach. Chocolate is the most common toxicity treat during the holidays. Small amounts cause problems. Larger amounts can cause above normal heart rhythms, nervous system malfunctions, and even death. Secure your garbage in bins with tight lids. (This is a good habit to get into all year!) A dog can chew up holiday garbage, which can result in intestinal problems.
6. Buy only decorating products (tree water preservatives and artificial snow) that are labeled non-toxic.
7. Secure large trees to the wall to prevent tipping, or consider a smaller tree that can fit on a tabletop.
8. Remember that stomach problems can be caused by popcorn and gumdrops. Avoid using these strings of edible decorations.
9. Fasten all your tree decorations securely, with the more fragile ones at the top. Dogs who chew these can suffer cuts in their mouth from broken ornaments.
10. Return paper and other gift wrapping materials to their storage places after gift wrapping is finished.
11. Place holiday plants out of reach and vacuum often. Poinsettia can cause drooling, oral pain, and vomiting. Mistletoe causes vomiting, labored breathing, shock, and death from cardiovascular collapse. When animals

eat the needles from real or fake trees, they can also get intestinal blockage.

12. Display candles on high shelves to avoid painful burns and singed whiskers and make sure that cords are tucked out of reach. Electrocutation can put a huge damper on Holiday festivities.

About the GregRobert, LLC

GregRobert Discount Pet Supplies offers discounted pet products for cat and dog owners. Their internet site built by Nicayla Enterprises: <http://www.pet-dog-cat-supply-store.com> is a web portal for pet lovers. Including an “ask the vet” feature, online forums and a vast array of pet products, it is the fastest growing pet site on the Internet.

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