

The Bark & Mew

Information & Updates from Falconbridge Animal Hospital & Village Veterinary Hospital
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Keeping Your Pet Safe During the Holidays

Most of us love decorating for the holidays, but keep in mind some things can be dangerous to your pets. Here are a few holiday safety tips:



Atticus exploring Mt Jefferson.

- Anchor your Christmas tree so that climbing cats and dogs with wagging tails cannot knock it over.
- Nix the tinsel, or at least hang it high on the tree. Tinsel is very enticing to cats and dogs but when ingested, it can potentially block the intestines.
- Hang the lights high so that your pet cannot bite them and possibly get electrocuted.
- Ornaments need to be out of reach to prevent being knocked off, stepped on or ingested. Ornaments can cause injury to your pets paws and mouth, and can cause intestinal blockage.
- If you have a live tree be sure to clean up pine needles frequently. They can cause stomach upset and possibly puncture the intestines.
- Edible tree ornaments can be too enticing for some pets, causing them to tug on the tree possibly knocking it over or ingesting the ornament and causing stomach upset.

- Prevent your pet from drinking the water in the tree stand. The water may be stagnant, contain bacteria, or contain pesticides and preservatives. Any one of these can cause vomiting or diarrhea.
- If your pet is traveling with you remember to have your pet's health certificate and first-aid kit. Also look up and bring information on nearby veterinarians so you know where to go for help if anything should happen.

Even though holiday house plants warm up your home they can also be dangerous to your pet. Keep in mind the following plants when you decorate this season:

- Lilies can be toxic to cats, potentially causing kidney failure.
- Poinsettias can upset your pets digestive system if ingested.
- Mistletoe, especially the berries, are toxic and can cause stomach upset or even fatal heart problems.
- Holly can cause lethargy, vomiting, nausea and diarrhea.
- Certain types of Ivy can cause stomach upset, including abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Amaryllis can cause vomiting and diarrhea.
- Hibiscus can cause diarrhea.

There are many other houseplants that are potentially hazardous to your pets. You can get a list or more information at www.asPCA.org.

Gifts For Your Pets

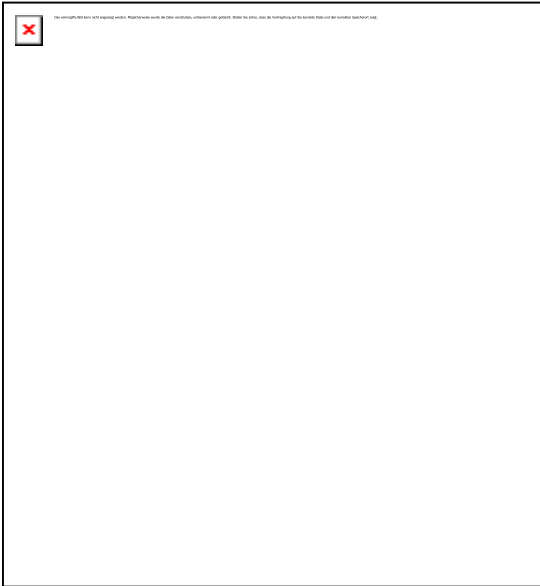
Your pets can enjoy the holidays, just like we do, by getting gifts! Here are a few suggestions for our furry friends.

For cats:

- bird feeders
- scratching post
- laser toys
- catnip toys
- cat house/bed
- treats

For dogs:

- new collar
- bed
- toys
- gourmet treats
- spa day with the groomer



We are so proud to be able to help Meals on Wheels for the 3rd year in a row!

Please help us reach our goal of 200 bags of pet food to feed the pets of Meals-On-Wheels participants. For every dollar you donate you can enter to win one of five prizes.

The raffle choices are:

\$200 off a Dental Cleaning

One Year of Heartworm Prevention

Six Months of Frontline Plus

Two Night Spa Getaway

Free Groom

Pets must be a patient of Falconbridge Animal Hospital or Village Veterinary Hospital to win. Additional requirements must be met to receive heartworm prevention or dental cleaning.

To learn more about Meals-On-Wheels and other ways you can help please visit www.MOWDurham.org.