Keep Santa Paws Safe During the Holidays

The holidays are a time that pet owners need to take some extra precautions to protect their animals from getting sick, swallowing foreign objects, and from other holiday decoration disasters. Here are some holiday safety pet tips for you to follow to keep your pet safe during the holidays.

Snow & Water
- Don’t allow pets to lick snow, especially after it’s been plowed, as it can contain salt and other chemicals.
- Don’t let pets drink holiday tree water. Some trees contain fertilizers, and stagnant tree water can harbor bacteria.
- Don’t put aspirin in the water (some folks do this thinking it will keep the tree or plant more vigorous). If a pet should ingest the aspirin-laced water, his health or even life can be at risk.

Decorations & Toys
- Pets, particularly cats, can be tempted to eat tinsel, which can block the intestines. Be sure to hang it high enough to keep it out of reach.
- Keep other ornaments out of reach, as well. Ingestion of any ornament, which may look like toys to pets, can result in life-threatening emergencies.
- Keep candles on high shelves. Use fireplace screens to avoid burns.

Guests
- Holiday guests and other activity can be very stressful and even frightening to pets. It can also trigger illness and intestinal upset. Make sure pets have a safe place to retreat in your house, and make sure they are wearing a current I.D. tag in case they escape out the door when guests come and go.
- Do not let guests feed your pets human food.
- There are many holiday foods, including fatty meats, gravies, poultry skin, bones, chocolate and alcohol that can cause illnesses in animals, from vomiting and diarrhea to highly serious pancreatitis and other toxic reactions. In addition, candy wrappers, aluminum foil pieces and ribbons can choke pets. Inform guests as they arrive of the house rules on feeding food to your pets.

Trees, Lights and Plants
- Avoid holiday plants that are toxic to pets, such as holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and lilies. Pine needles can also pose a health risk to animals, if ingested.
- Tape down or cover cords to help avoid shocks, burns or other serious injuries to pets that confuse cords and plugs for chew toys. Unplug lights when you’re not home.
- Anchor Christmas trees to the ceiling with a string to keep it from falling on pets.

For more safety tips, go to articlesbase.com and search for “Holiday Safety Pet Tips.” Article reprinted with permission from articlesbase.com.
Cats are connoisseurs of comfort.  James Herriot

Happy Holidays from the Pre-Vet Club!

2010-2011 OFFICERS

Jeff Sarek, President
Tara Reilly, Vice President
Lawrence Santistevan, Secretary
Melanie Acker, Treasurer
Eric Song, Activities Coordinator
Andrea Herndon, Historian

Hannah Huffman, Community Outreach Coordinator
Stephanie Richt, Publicity Coordinator
Melissa Cassutt, Newsletter Editor
Jackie Murphy, Webmaster
Tiffany Uhl, CVMBS Rep

Reminder: No office hours until 2011!
If you need to reach an officer, please email csuprevet@gmail.com.

COMMITTEES

Publicity
Officer Contact: Stephanie Richt
Goals: Publicize the Pre-Vet Club on campus
Duties: Hang flyers and help chalk the campus before general meetings
Points: .25 points per flyer posted; .5 points per chalking

Photography
Officer Contact: Andrea Herndon
Goals: Record the activities and events hosted by the Pre-Vet Club
Duties: Photography
Points: .5 points per activity

Newsletter
Officer Contact: Melissa Cassutt
Goals: Report on club events, meetings and current trends in veterinary medicine
Duties: Research and write articles, edit, design
Points: .5 points per article

We are already working on Spring 2011 issues of the Moos News! If you would like to contribute, please contact editor Melissa Cassutt at melissa.cassutt@rams.colostate.edu.

Spring 2011 General Meeting
6 p.m., January 26
Yates 104

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