

Paws for thought

12 days of Holiday Hazards

1. Chocolate

Chocolate is toxic to dogs and just a small amount can cause them to feel pretty poorly. The darker the chocolate, the more toxic and dangerous to your four legged friend. Things to look out for are vomiting, diarrhoea, rapid breathing, tremors/ incoordination or seizures.

Don't leave your tasty treats in reach of your furry friends. Avoid leaving chocolate under or on the tree.



Daleside

Veterinary Group

WINTER 2018

2. Christmas pudding, mince pies, fruit cake (grapes, sultanas, raisins, currants)

These fruits are toxic to your pets, especially in the dried form. Even a small amount can be toxic and lead to kidney problems.

There are lots of festive foods containing these fruits around Christmas so be sure to keep them out of reach of your pets!



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3. Alcohol

The effects are much like the those in humans when drunk in excess... vomiting, wobbliness and drowsiness. However, our pets are much more sensitive to alcohol and ingestion can lead to a coma in severe cases.

Make sure you clean up any spillages and do not leave your leftovers or open bottles lying around.

4. Onions, garlic, leeks, chives - that's shallot!

Uncooked or cooked, these veggies can cause gastric upset resulting in vomiting and diarrhoea initially. A few days following ingestion, red blood cell damage can occur leading to anaemia.

Dispose of any leftovers and do not feed your pets any food containing the above... especially not the classic Boxing Day leftover turkey curry!

5. Cooked bones and leftovers

Despite how the old song "Knick-Knack Paddywhack" goes... avoid giving your dog any bones! Cooked bones are especially more brittle and likely to

splinter, potentially causing problems including obstruction or perforation of your pets gastrointestinal tract.

Any leftovers from the festive season are likely to be rich and fatty which isn't good for our four-legged friends. To avoid any upset tummies or potential blockages, dispose of any leftovers and don't be tempted to feed them to your pets.

6. Macademia nuts

Tasty for us but toxic to our pets! Can cause weakness, tremors, and stiffness when walking. Other signs of ingestion include vomiting and an increased body temperature.

Keep these treats locked away - especially the ones coated in chocolate... double danger!

7. Blue cheese

More cheese Gromit? But no blue cheese please! This smelly snack contains a substance which dogs are sensitive to and can cause gastric upset, tremors and seizures.

Keep it out of reach of furry paws.



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8. Oh Christmas Treeeeee

How lovely those branches may be, but pine needles can be pretty irritating to the mouth of an inquisitive pooch! If swallowed, the sharp needles can cause trauma and/or mild tummy upset.

Ensure fallen needles are vacuumed up every day or consider buying an artificial tree.

9. Decorations

Although not toxic, any decorations could cause an obstruction in your pets gastrointestinal tract if swallowed.† Christmas light may also be chewed and could cause an electric shock.

Those sparkly baubles look like great toys for your pet to have a good chew on, so avoid leaving your pet unsupervised around the Christmas tree. Using an extension cord which cuts out automatically when damaged is also advisable to protect your pets.

10. Festive flowers

Poinsettia, misteltoe and ivy are all mildly toxic to your pets. Signs of ingestion can include vomiting, excess salivation and diarrhoea.

Although lillies are not a festive flower, they are often included in Christmas bouquets and you should be aware that they are incredibly toxic to both cats and dogs. Ingestion of any part of the flower can cause acute kidney injury and potentially death.

Be sure to keep these plants out of reach of your pets, and if at all possible avoid having lillies in your house.

11. Antifreeze

Antifreeze has a very sweet taste and is therefore enticing to your pets. However, it is very toxic and can cause acute kidney injury. Sadly ingestion can often lead to fatality.

Always ensure to clean up any spillages and keep well out of reach of your pets.

12. Silica gel

Contained within the small sachets that often come in the packaging we tear open at Christmas. Thankfully they are non-toxic, but could cause a gastrointestinal blockage if eaten by your pet.

Make sure you tidy up and dispose of all wrapping paper and packaging to avoid any risk of your pets eating them.

If you're worried that your pet has eaten something they shouldn't have then feel free to ring us for advice, and we can happily book you an emergency appointment if needed.





Bunny Business: Keeping Rabbits Warm!

Keeping rabbits warm is essential, as naturally they would live in underground burrows, where the temperature changes accordingly to suit their needs. By keeping rabbits above ground they are at risk of dampness and draughts, which can be fatal during the colder months. Here are some top tips to keep your rabbit happy during the festive season!

- Lift bowls off the floor of the hutch by using a snugglesafe to prevent them freezing
- Wrap water bottles with bubble wrap for insulation so your rabbit can stay hydrated

- Place old blankets over the hutch for extra insulation against wind and wet weather
- Add Perspex sheets to the front of the hutch, still providing adequate ventilation and a view for your rabbit to prevent boredom!
- Add a cardboard box, which is filled with hay, into the hutch for added warmth
- Ensure bedding is deep and is also kept dry. The hutch should be checked a minimum of three times daily
- If you decide to bring your rabbit inside over the winter months,

preparation is key! It should be done gradually, ideally before the weather becomes colder. Remember that routine household noises and lighting will be unfamiliar, so ensure you have provided a hiding place to reduce stress!

Outdoor rabbits rely on their owners to keep them comfortable and happy in all kinds of weather. If you notice any changes or anything you may be worried about, phone your vet.



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