



## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FOR PETS

**THE HOLIDAYS** are here! This is a great time to enjoy food, decorations, family, and friends. While celebrating the holidays, it is important to keep your pet's diet and routine as normal as possible. Also make sure to keep pets away from the following foods, plants, and decorations.

### FOODS

- Alcohol
- Bones
- Candy
- Citrus and pits
- Coffee
- Raw eggs
- Grapes and raisins
- Leaves and stems
- Nuts
- Onions
- Salt

Keep trash hidden or in a secure container at all times.

If you are planning on giving your pet treats during the holidays make sure that they are pet friendly and that they are given in moderation, there is such thing as too much even if it is pet safe.

[People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets](#) | ASPCA

[Foods That Can Be Poisonous to Pets](#) | The Humane Society of the United States

### PLANTS

- **Christmas trees** (artificial or real) can cause an intestinal obstruction.
- **Christmas tree water** can possibly contain poisonous chemicals from the tree.
- **Holly** can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

- **Mistletoe** can cause GI upset and cardiovascular problems.
- **Poinsettias** are poisonous to pets.

Opt for artificial plants to decorate with to minimize serious or life-threatening issues for your pet.

## DECORATIONS

- **Christmas lights:** place out of reach of pets. Wires can give your pet a potentially fatal shock if chewed on.
- **Ornaments:** can cause intestinal issues if swallowed. Be aware of glass ornaments and keep them out of reach.
- **Tinsel:** place away from the bottom of the tree where your pet can't reach them. Tinsel can cause intestinal blockage.
- **Candles:** pets can knock over candles possibly spilling wax, burning themselves or starting a fire.
- **Fire starter logs:** can cause an irritated stomach or intestinal blockage.
- **Packages:** make sure that if you give something potentially hazardous, such as food, to a pet owner in a box let them know so that they can put it somewhere safe. Some animals may be able to sniff out a box filled with food, and have it eaten before you notice..

All animals are different, some will leave decorations alone and some will not. It is important to monitor your pet around them to see if they are interested. If they are interested in a particular thing, put it out of reach, or remove it entirely.

## HOLIDAY GATHERINGS

- Make sure your guests are aware of your pets if they are visiting. If your pet is not friendly with strangers make sure that your guests are aware not to handle them.
- It is best to tell all guest not to feed your pet anything without your approval. You are in charge of your pet's diet, and you should make the call whether or not they should have it. Offer your guests your approved treats instead of table scraps.
- Make sure to provide a calm quiet place for your pet to retreat to if they need to. Sometimes the hustle and bustle of multiple house guests can be scary to animals not used to anyone else in the house.

**Have a safe and happy holiday season from  
all of us at Alpine Animal Services!**



City of Alpine Animal Services · 432-837-3486