



## Beckett and Associates Veterinary Services, LLC

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### WHAT'S NEW:

On behalf of all the staff here at Beckett and Associates, we want to wish all of our clients and patients a very happy and healthy holiday season!

As we all know, December is a busy time of year. More importantly, we pet owners need to make sure that in the chaos of shopping, cooking, traveling or gift wrapping, we are fully aware of anything that could cause danger to our pets.

Holiday hazards come in all different sizes, shapes and consistencies. The bottom line is that many pets will end up at the vet's office this holiday season. Fortunately, yours shouldn't be amongst them if you keep an eye out for these hazards.

With the help of the Veterinary Information Network, the following is a list of some popular holiday no-nos.

**Holiday Snacks** In general, any food your pet is not accustomed to eating has the potential to trigger quite the intestinal upset. Foods too rich, too fatty or too spicy can all be the culprit. For some animals, the snack you sneak can trigger a severe inflammation of the pancreas or intestine, which can lead that to a serious – and life-threatening – illness. In addition, before you share your holiday sweets, be aware that chocolate is extremely toxic to dogs.



How about those holiday plants? *Lilies* that may be found in holiday flower arrangements can be fatal to your cat. Certain types can cause acute kidney failure. *Poinsettias* - if ingested - can be irritating to the mouth and stomach, and can cause vomiting or nausea. *Mistletoe* has the potential to cause cardiovascular problems. *Holly* ingestion could cause vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, and lethargy. Bottom line: avoid putting any new floral arrangements in reach of your furry pals!

**No Bone About This One** Even the largest and heartiest of bones can splinter and irritate the intestinal lining of your favorite pet. Results of ingestion can be deadly. While most poultry bones are unsafe, some beef bones can sometimes be carefully substituted. Knuckle bones tend to stand up to vigorous gnawing, providing your pet with hours of muddled fun. Regardless, always, always supervise your dog's chewing! And - for those pooches who prefer to eat bones rather than just chew on them, you guessed it! Your safest bet is to avoid bones all together!



**Christmas Tree** The Christmas tree is full of dangers for both dogs and cats. Tinsel – along with yarn, ribbon or string - is certainly an appealing play toy for any cat, kitten, puppy or grown dog! When ingested, it can twist and tie up the intestines. This type of medical problem – when dealt with right away - is typically only fixable surgically. Ornaments, too, are extremely dangerous in the mouths - and stomachs - of pets.

A more forgotten means for holiday hazards is the water at the base of the Christmas tree. It can contain secretions of fertilizer and nasty bacteria that can cause serious health problems to our pets. Light strings and electrical cords are dangerous when chewed.

One of the more important parts of holiday preventive care is knowing what to do in the event of an actual emergency. Be sure to have the closest emergency hospital information on hand. Also, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center has a hotline: 1-888-4-ANI-HELP.

