



# Holiday Pet Safety Tips

**Following these simple rules can ensure that your holiday season remains full of joy.**

1. **Certain plants such as Mistletoe berries, and the leaves, stem and flowers of the Poinsettia can be dangerous to pets. Be sure to keep these plants well out of the reach of animals.**
2. **Be careful with holiday floral arrangements. Lilies are commonly used this time of year and all varieties, including Tiger, Asian, Japanese Show, Stargazer and Casa Blanca can cause kidney failure in cats. Safe alternatives can include artificial flowers made from silk or plastic.**
3. **Foods and drinks such as alcoholic beverages, seeds and pits from many fruits, chocolate, macadamia nuts, walnuts, coffee, tea, salt, onions, and other foods can be harmful and can even cause death.**
4. **Never feed pets leftover from the dinner table. Items such as chicken bones can easily shatter and choke cats and dogs.**
5. **Keep your pets on a normal diet. Any change of diet, even for one meal, may give your dog or cat severe indigestion and diarrhea. This is particularly true for older animals that have more delicate digestive systems and nutritional requirements.**
6. **Keep aluminum foil and cellophane candy wrappers away from pets. They can cause vomiting and intestinal blockage.**
7. **Keep wires and other decorations out of the reach of your pets. Decorations such as tinsel, glass ornaments and garlands can easily attract pets, but are dangerous choking hazards. If ingested, they can become lodged in the intestines and cause intestinal blockage. Electric decorations such as stringed lights can give your pets a shock should they chew on the wires.**
8. **The usual commotion of the holiday season can be stressful on animals as well as humans. Put your pets in a quiet room or quiet area of the house when guests are visiting. Make sure your pets are wearing the proper identification. If during the commotion they become confused and escape the safety of your home, proper identification will ensure that if your pet is found, he/she will be returned to you.**
9. **When traveling with your pets, make sure they are properly secured in the vehicle. Don't fly your pets in the cargo area on airplanes unless absolutely necessary.**
10. **Keep pets away from Christmas tree water. The water may contain fertilizers which, if ingested, can cause a stomach upset. Stagnant water can also act as a breeding ground for bacteria and if ingested a pet could end up with nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.**

**This flyer provided by Kern County Animal Control. For more information, please call 661-321-3000 or log onto [www.co.kern.ca.us/acd](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd).**

