



## **Your Pet and the Holidays**

As the holiday season is fast-approaching, you will undoubtedly be making lists and checking them twice. For pet owners everywhere, this usually means thinking about what the holidays have in store for our favorite, four-legged friends. So here's a list of things to remember this season from the City of Palm Coast Animal Control, as you try to keep you and your pet's holiday as stress-free and fun as possible.

Thanksgiving is a great time to sit together as a family and enjoy some quality time, and of course, turkey. Even though your dog may join you in the dining room, human food is off limits. The bones might look appetizing, but poultry bones splinter in poor Puppy's throat, choking or blocking his airway or intestines.

If you think some holiday ham and gravy is a good treat for Puppy, you could be sending the wrong message. Feeding your dog rich, human foods can upset his stomach, as well as his eating habits.

When the holiday lights go up, the cords come out. Often times Kitty will want to chew on them. For cats who like to play or chew yarn, electrical cords seem like fair game. Don't let little Kitty get burned – electrical safety can be important for your pet as well as your family, so take the time to tape down cords.

Holly, mistletoe and poinsettias may add to the Christmas spirit of your home, but any of these holiday plants can be mildly to severely toxic to pets. You'll want to keep Kitty away from these common holiday plants, as well as pine needles, which can puncture her stomach.

Make sure you secure your Christmas tree so it doesn't fall over when your curious puppy is exploring the house's new holiday decorations. Christmas tree water can also upset your pup's stomach. Also many snow globes contain antifreeze, which can be lethal.

Although this is the season of giving, please think before you give a pet as a gift! The holidays are hectic and your new friend may have trouble adjusting. Instead, try giving the gift of pet supplies and a voucher, so they can choose their new loved one.

Remember, you are not the only one who might be stressed out this season. Keep your furry friends away from the hustle and bustle of the holidays, a quiet place for them to rest and relax from all the quests and holiday activities.

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY**