



'Tis the season to be jolly. Your stockings are hung by the chimney with care, the halls are beautifully decked with holly. The tree is decorated, but wait Rover is sniffing around the bottom of it, his leg starts to rise, you yell "STOP" sadly it's too late.

The upcoming Holiday Season is an exciting time for everyone. Parents are busy wandering the malls for hours trying to find that perfect gift and their children have turned into angels.

Yours pets are also affected. No more quiet living room. It is replaced by a big flashing tree with bright lights, shiny tinsel and boxes covered with ribbons.

In less time than it takes to say, "Happy Holidays," the dogs have torn open packages, chewed the expensive ornaments, bowled over a guest, unplugged the flashing lights, watered the tree, pulled the roasting pan from the trash, eaten the cookies, sent Grandma's good china shattering to the floor and vomited on the rug.



The Christmas Tree

If you have a live Christmas tree, keep the water stand covered. Pine sap mixed with water makes a poisonous drink for your pet. The smell of a live or artificial tree may cause your pet to urinate-mark it. It may help to bring the tree into an isolated indoor room for a day or two, so that it smells more like "home." Secure Christmas trees to a wall or ceiling hook with sturdy fishing line. This will help prevent the tree from toppling over should your dog jump on it or accidentally knock it over.

Christmas Ornaments and Holiday Lights

Pick up any ornament hooks, tinsel, or ribbon that fall on the floor. Your pet could experience serious internal injuries if any of these items are ingested. If you have a dog or cat that is tempted to play with the ornaments on your tree, decorate the bottom third of the tree with non-breakable, plastic, or wooden ornaments, or decorate only the top two-thirds of your tree. Make sure that your dog has plenty of dog toys available, so they do not become bored. If you have indoor holiday lights, be sure they don't hang so low that your dog could become entangled in them. Remember to unplug the lights when you're not home to supervise your dog.

Holiday Treats:

Keep holiday treats and candies out of your dog's reach. Remember to move out of reach any wrapped gifts under your tree that may contain food items. People food, especially in excess, can make your dog sick. Pets are not garbage disposals for holiday left-over's. Remember "STUFF" the turkey not your dog.

Holiday Flowers and Plants

Poinsettias, mistletoe berries, and other popular holiday flowers can cause serious stomach upset for pets. Check with your veterinarian or local poison control center to find out what holiday plants and flowers you need to keep out of your dog's reach.

Presents:

Keep most of your presents away, unless your dog has been trained. This is also a good time to start training. Put one fully wrapped present under the tree and see what happens. If your dog gives it a few sniffs then disregards it, Great. If your dog sees this as another chew toy, know is the time to step in.



Guests:

When you are entertaining make sure your dog has a safe and familiar place where he/she can retreat to.