



Pawsitive Experience
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Keeping Your Dog Safe and Comfortable During the Holiday Season

Foods: Please check out my Halloween and Thanksgiving articles for dangerous foods found around the holidays. Fatty foods, bones, chocolate and certain candies containing artificial sweeteners can be dangerous.

Christmas Tree: If you have a rambunctious pet who likes to climb trees, secure your tree with fish line to a window lever or wall. Make sure your Christmas stand is very stable.

Decorations: Flocking and artificial snow are mildly toxic. Eaten ornaments and tinsel can cause obstructions and internal bleeding. Keep decorations up high or enclose your tree with a doggy exercise pen or close your dog off from the room with the tree entirely. Puppies are the most curious and most adult dogs are fine around trees. Same goes for kittens and cats. Wiring can be chewed by dogs leading to shock. Coat or spray the wiring with “Bitter Apple” or “Yuck” found at pet stores, or try “Bengay” or “Vicks Vapor Rub”. Test to make sure your dog dislikes the taste first.

Wrapping: Ribbons, yarns, and string can cause blockages and internal bleeding.

Holiday Plants: Poinsettias, mistletoe, holly and Christmas cacti are poisonous.

Guests: If your dog is not used to lots of people and loud noises, or you see stress, put them in a quiet room with a stuffed Kong toy. Brush up on your obedience training, working on the commands you will need with guests around. Down/stay, go to your bed, no jump, wait at the door, leave it, and coming to you when called can be very useful when guests come to visit.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday.

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