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The Best Gift for your pet Health and Happiness

Being able to enjoy the holidays with your pet requires awareness of hazards and taking precautions.

Common holiday hazards:

-  *Electrical cords - Biting through cords can cause a life threatening electrical shock.*
-  *Tinsel, ribbon, and ornament hooks intrigue cats and have the danger of causing intestinal blockage if eaten.*
-  *Glass ornaments can look like toys to cat and dogs, but can cause serious injury if your pet breaks or swallows these. Keep shatter proof ornaments towards the bottom of the tree.*
-  *Holiday plants such as holly, and poinsettias will cause oral irritation, and gastrointestinal upset. Mistletoe can be fatal in large quantities. Lilies can be fatal in cats.*
-  *Liquid potpourris can cause damage to skin, eyes, or mouth and the intestinal tract if ingested.*
-  *Burning candles need to be placed where cats will not come in contact, and dog's tails can not reach.*
-  *Dangerous human foods include raisins, grapes, onions, alcohol, and chocolate.*
-  *The most frequent medical concern over the holidays is vomiting and diarrhea caused by table scrapes and too many treats.*

Holiday preparations:

-  *Have emergency numbers available for a Veterinary Hospital open during holiday hours and evenings. (Lodi Veterinary Hospital 608-592-3232)*
-  *ASPCA Poison Center 1-888-426-4435*
-  *For pets that are stressed by guests coming to the home, find a quiet, safe place for them. This is especially important for cats.*
-  *Keep small pet treats your pet is accustomed to on hand for guests to give preventing them from feeding human foods.*