



LAKWOOD ANIMAL HOSPITAL

PET GAZETTE

Winter 2017-2018

Keep pets safe during the holidays

What brings you and your family joy over the holidays could be deadly for your pet. Below is a list of holiday items and the symptoms they cause if they're ingested. As you're celebrating with your family this holiday season, be mindful of the items below and keep your pet out of harm's way.

Chocolate



Depending on the dose ingested, chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, hyperactivity, increased thirst and urination, and an increased heart rate.

Gum



Candies or gum containing the sweetener xylitol can cause a drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination, and seizures.

Leftovers



Bones can splinter and cause blockages. Greasy, spicy, and fatty foods can cause an upset stomach.

Alcohol



Alcohol can cause a pet to go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.

Aluminum foil



Aluminum foil and cellophane wrappers can cause vomiting and intestinal blockage.

Lilies



Toxic lilies can cause kidney failure in cats.

Mistletoe



Mistletoe and holly berries can cause gastrointestinal upset (vomiting, nausea, diarrhea), cardiovascular problems, and lethargy.

Poinsettias



Considered very low in toxicity, poinsettias might cause mild vomiting or nausea.

Christmas tree water



Christmas tree water may contain fertilizers that can upset a pet's stomach. Stagnant water can also be a breeding ground for bacteria.

Decorations



Decorations like ribbon or tinsel can become lodged in intestines and cause an obstruction.

6 SUPER SAFETY TIPS *for the dog park*

Make sure everyone has a good time and stays happy and healthy on your next visit.

1 Visit your veterinarian. Your dog should be current on vaccinations and flea and intestinal parasite preventives before running around with other dogs at the dog park. Before a dog park visit is also a great time to talk about your dog's temperament and whether he's ready to engage with other pets and people in an off-leash environment.

2 Know commands. You need to be able to control your dog if a problematic situation arises. Make sure your dog knows some basic obedience commands—"come," "sit," "stay" and "leave it"—in order to get him out of trouble.

3 Find the right spot. You want to find the dog park that's just right for you and your dog. Ideally, it should have:

- > adequate room for dogs to run
- > secure fences
- > a double gate for entry
- > a separate area for small dogs
- > a safe, sheltered area
- > a source of drinking water
- > posted rules of conduct.

If you visit a park and it's too congested or you see overly assertive or aggressive dogs or owners who aren't watching their dogs, keep looking.

4 Be prepared. Take these essentials with you:

- > bags for cleaning up messes
- > drinking water, in case the park doesn't have a source
- > toys, unless your dog guards them
- > a leash
- > a cell phone, in case you need assistance

It's also a good idea to take something to break up an aggressive situation between dogs, such as a veterinarian-recommended animal deterrent spray or a compressed-air horn.



5 Be watchful. When you first arrive, wait until no other dogs are at the gate. Once it's clear, you can take your dog off the leash and let him run through the gate. Watch your dog, but also keep an eye out for overly excited or aggressive dogs near him. If your dog starts acting fearful or overwhelmed, use a basic command in an upbeat voice to call him back. Also, don't hesitate to call animal control if a dog is acting inappropriately and the owner isn't being attentive.

6 Know when to intervene. Playful dogs bounce around, wag their tails and have relaxed postures and facial expressions. Be watchful for signs of aggression—growling, a stiff posture, raised hackles and tail, a closed mouth or a stronger focus. Don't yell if your dog and another dog start growling at each other, because that could trigger a fight. Instead, use a basic command to call your dog back to you and move to another spot. If a fight does break out, don't grab your dog's collar—you could get hurt. Instead, use your deterrent spray, a horn or a water hose to break up the dogs.

10 things to do if your pet is lost

Nearly one in five lost pets goes missing after being scared by the sound of fireworks, thunderstorms or other loud noises, according to a survey by The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. And, while losing your pet can be a traumatic experience for both you and your pet, have hope as 93 percent of dogs and 75 percent of cats reported lost are returned safely to their homes, according to another survey.

If you do lose your pet, here are 10 top tips to help reunite you with your furry friend as quickly as possible:



1 File a lost pet report with every shelter and animal control office within a 60-mile radius of your home and visit the nearest shelters daily, if possible.

2 Get the word out to all veterinarians in the area. Sometimes people pick up a stray and drive it to a distant clinic.

3 Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. Enlist friends and family to help. Hand out a recent photograph of your pet and your contact information.

4 Speak with your neighbors. The more people know you have lost a pet and that you are desperately trying to find your pet, the more people will call you if they see a loose animal.

5 Place flyers in the neighborhood and public places. To avoid scams, when describing your pet, leave out one characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.

6 Post about your pet on all pet recovery websites and services. Sites such as Craigslist.org, TheCenterForLostPets.com and FidoFinder.com broadcast your missing pet quickly.

7 Consider a lost pet recovery service. There are numerous lost pet alert services that will contact homes, veterinarians, shelters and animal control organizations for a reasonable fee.

8 Place food and water outside your home. Your pets may return to your home when they get hungry or thirsty. Consider placing food in a humane pet trap to capture them.

9 Tell everyone you see about your pet and ask them to keep their eyes open. The more people you alert, the greater the chance someone will recollect seeing your pet in their area.

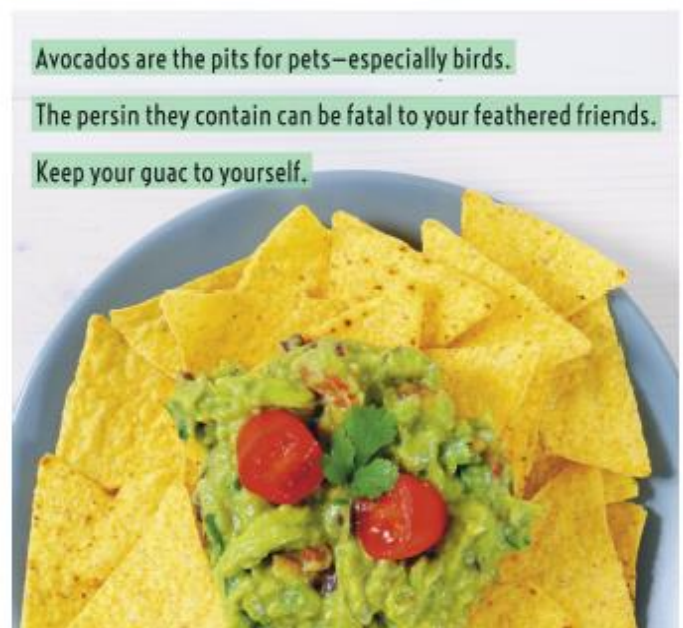
10 Don't give up. Be aggressive in your search, get lots of help and get the word out right away. You need those early hours to put up posters and start your search.

“Safety” isn’t just for football It’s for pets, too!

Don’t commit a party foul during the Superbowl! Keep pets safe, happy and healthy by defending your game-day goodies.

Your favorite game-day foods are fun, tasty and definitely Pinterest-worthy ... but did you know how harmful they can be for pets? Sometimes we get distracted by guests (not to mention all those funny

commercials). Don’t let the distractions get in the way of keeping pets safe. And remember, if your pet accidentally gets into food, drinks or other game-day goodies, call your veterinarian right away—ready, set, go!



Source: Central Veterinary Associates



3 pet food label myths

With so many pet food options, choosing the right diet can be tricky. As your veterinary team, we can help you select the best foods based on our experience with many pets, ignoring the blizzard of marketing ploys designed to appeal to your emotional needs rather than your pets' nutritional needs.

Myth 1 Foods labeled premium are always better for your pet.

Truth: Some premium food companies may call out other manufacturers for using ingredients like corn or meat meals, knowing full well that pets do not need ingredients; they need the nutrients that are contained in ingredients. The nutrients contained in those ingredients are more important than the ingredients themselves. Manufacturers, nutritionists and pet owners simply can't predict a food's performance based on its ingredient list. There are too many unknowns: the amount of the ingredient present in the food, the quality of the ingredient or the exact identity and nutrient composition of the ingredient.

Myth 2 The best food for your pet is one that lists real meat as the first ingredient.

Truth: Some manufacturers also make unsubstantiated claims about ingredients and manipulate their own ingredient lists. For example, some dry food manufacturers tout real chicken, fish or beef as their first ingredient because the food contains more of this ingredient by weight than any other ingredient. What they don't say is that "real meat" is mostly water weight, which is removed when the food is made, moving it way down the ingredient list. They also neglect to mention that the technical term for "real meat" is mechanically deboned meat, also known as "white slime!"

Myth 3 The order of the ingredients is the most important factor in selecting your pet's diet.

Truth: Another trick some manufacturers play is called ingredient splitting, where they will list different carbohydrates separately—corn, rice, barley, wheat or oatmeal, for example—or list out different forms of the same carbohydrate, such as ground wheat and wheat flour, so these individual carbs appear lower in the ingredient list. Doing so makes it appear as if carbohydrates are not the first ingredient.

Fact: Your veterinarian chooses your pet's food based on your pet's physical exam, lifestyle, medical condition and other factors related to your pet's health. So before you reach for the food you heard about on a commercial, call your veterinary team first for a recommendation tailored to your pet.

Winter care tips for your pet

Review these tips to keep pets safe and healthy during the fall and winter seasons.

Weather

- Keep cats indoors and shorten exercise walks for dogs when the **temperature** falls. Safe outdoor temperatures for pets vary by breed and size. Ask your veterinarian for a specific recommendation for your pet.

- If your pet must be outside at all, provide adequate **shelter**. A dog house should be no more than three times the dog's size. The door should face **away** from the wind—usually south. And avoid blankets and straw—they can harbor fleas. Use cedar shavings for bedding instead. Provide similar shelter or access to a building for outdoor cats.

- Never allow your dog to walk on a **lake** or **pond** that looks frozen. The appearance of ice can be deceiving and pets can fall through and drown.

Parasite prevention

- Continue using monthly flea, tick, and heartworm preventives. Pets should take these preventives year-round. Remember, it's often easier and cheaper to prevent **parasites** than treat them when a pet's infested or infected.

Take your pet for fecal exams for internal parasites at least yearly, and keep your yard clean of feces.

Motor vehicles and antifreeze

- When the weather cools, cats like to sleep near a warm **car engine**, curling up on or under the hood. So be sure you know where your cat is and honk the horn before starting your car.

- **Antifreeze** can be lethal. It tastes sweet to pets and contains ethylene glycol, a toxic agent. So **always** clean up any antifreeze if it spills. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you suspect your pet has consumed antifreeze.

Diet, food, and water

- Like people, outdoor pets can burn more calories in the winter. However, most indoor pets don't need their **diet** adjusted for different seasons. Your veterinarian can help determine whether your pet's diet is adequate and balanced.

- To prevent **dehydration**, be sure your pet's water supply doesn't freeze. And use a non-metal water dish to keep your pet's tongue from sticking.

- **Candy**, especially chocolate, can make pets sick. A stomachache is the milder side effect, but chocolate poisoning—caused by theobromine, a compound found naturally in chocolate and related to caffeine—can be fatal.

Feet

- **Rock salt**, used to melt snow and ice, can irritate paw pads. Clean pads thoroughly after a trip outside.

- Uneven, **icy surfaces** can slash dogs' paw pads, so keep your dog on a leash or dress him in canine booties.

- Without hard surfaces to act as a natural file, dogs' **toenails** grow longer in winter, so regularly clip your pet's nails.

Holidays

- If you have a tree-climbing cat or large dog, consider securing your **holiday tree** by anchoring the top of the tree to a wall using strong cord or rope. Make sure any presents accessible to pets are securely wrapped, and don't use ribbon or raffia.

- Frequently check the ground around holiday trees. Ingested **pine needles** can puncture pets' intestines.

- Keep all tree **ornaments**, yarn, ribbon, and garlands well out of pets' reach by hanging them high on the tree. Don't use tinsel.

- Keep lit **candles** out of pets' reach.

- Holly, mistletoe, and poinsettia **plants** are poisonous when consumed. Enjoy their beauty while keeping pets safe by placing them well out of pets' reach.

- Puppies and kittens like to chew, so keep **electrical cords** out of reach.

- When entertaining, be sure **guests** know these and other household rules that help keep your pet safe.

