



Mohnacky Animal Hospitals, Inc.

While providing us with opportunities to gather with friends and family, the holiday season can also pose a threat to our pets. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight some seasonal hazards so your holiday celebrations are not marred by the unnecessary illness of your pet.

Holly: Leaves, roots and berries are toxic.

As few as two berries are said to be toxic. Pet will show signs of abdominal pain.

Mistletoe: American and European mistletoe have different toxic principles. American mistletoe is the species used in Christmas decorations. Both the leaves and the berries are toxic.

Large amounts are necessary to produce toxic signs such as nausea, vomiting, and gastroenteritis. Abortions are possible.

Poinsettia: Leaves and stems can cause stomach upset (remember the red "flowers" are actually leaves).

This plant produces a milky sap which is irritating to the skin, gastrointestinal tract and eyes.

Chocolate: Chocolate is toxic to dogs and causes agitation, nervousness, seizures, and sometimes death.

Other Seasonal Hazards:

String & Linear Foreign Bodies: Tinsel and the ribbon from packages often prove to be irresistible to cats and puppies. Needles and thread abound as everyone races to complete those last minute decorations and gifts. Try to keep these items away from your pets to prevent serious damage.

Pancreatitis: Sharing the holiday turkey, or raids on the garbage after the feast can precipitate an attack of pancreatitis. You'll usually notice your pet is very lethargic and not eating before it starts vomiting.



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