

Information from your veterinarian

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.