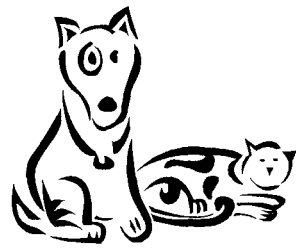


HOLIDAY HAZARDS & YOUR PET



As we enter the holiday season, we need to keep our pets' safety in mind. Many of the things associated with the holidays may be of concern with animals.

As we prepare to sit down for a holiday feast, keep in mind that your pet should not be included. Much of the food at the table will be high in fat which can cause intestinal upset or even pancreatitis, a severe condition which requires hospitalization to treat. If fed to a pet, bones can get stuck in their mouth or even cause an intestinal obstruction requiring surgery to remove. In addition, some desserts may contain chocolate which can also cause intestinal upset or even a toxic reaction in dogs. After the meal, it is important to properly dispose of the garbage out of your pets' reach.



In December, many people start to decorate their houses. A Christmas tree can be full of dangers. The needles from the tree and the resins in the water can cause significant irritation if ingested. Many ornaments may appear as tasty snacks to kittens and puppies, while ribbon and tinsel are commonly ingested by cats. Electrical cords can cause severe burns or even death if chewed on by a pet. Many plants of the holiday season are poisonous to animals; holly berries and their leaves pose a high toxicity threat.

The added stress of new people and things around the house can also be stressful to pets. Unfortunately, cats and some dogs may respond with inappropriate urination/defecation or destructive behavior around the house.

If your pet should partake in the season, you may have to include a trip to the veterinarian on your holiday to-do list. If your pet develops intestinal upset, it is best to immediately withhold food and water for a 12 hour period. After this time, reintroduce a small amount of bland food such as rice or bread. If your pet eats and is able to hold the food down, continue with small frequent meals throughout the day and slowly return to your normal diet and feeding schedule. If vomiting is persistent or your pet becomes anorexic, veterinary care may be necessary. If you know your pet has just eaten a foreign substance (bones, tinsel, ornaments, plants, chocolate, etc.), contact the veterinarian immediately who will then instruct you concerning the situation. If you encounter a foreign body (tinsel, ribbon, etc.) coming from your pets' rectum, do not attempt to pull it out. It is best to contact a veterinarian who may instruct you to cut it off and allow it to continue passing.



The best way to keep your pet healthy through the holiday season is to avoid the common problems associated with the season.

WE AT MISSION ROAD ANIMAL CLINIC WISH
YOU AND YOUR PET
THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS!