

HOLIDAY HAZARDS (PART II)

ETHYLENE GLYCOL (ANTIFREEZE): This is a common toxin that causes acute kidney failure when only a very small amount is consumed. The first signs are weakness, wobbly gait, increased thirst and increased urination. If emergency treatment is not instituted this toxin is usually fatal. Antifreeze is sweet and is attractive to pets so any leaks around vehicles in the snow or on the garage floor can lead to serious problems.

CHOCOLATE: Seen frequently during many holidays. Symptoms include increased thirst, vomiting, restlessness, heart irregularities and seizures. Early intervention is important for successful treatment but prevention is the best solution....protect your pets from chocolates

POINSETTIA: Commonly thought to be toxic this plant rarely causes more than stomach upset. It is best to keep of all your plants out of reach of your pets to avoid vomiting and diarrhea.

MISTLETOE: Rather rare but can cause vomiting, diarrhea, fluid loss and death has been reported.

MACADAMIA NUTS: Can cause depression, inability to stand or use the hind legs and vomiting.

PLANT BULBS: The amaryllis bulb is a Christmas favorite and can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Not a pleasant Christmas morning surprise!!

RAISINS/GRAPES: Can cause kidney failure and death. Do not give any raisins or grapes to your pets.

FOREIGN BODIES: Toys, ribbons and ornaments make this a common Christmas occurrence. Pet proof your house to avoid this Christmas accident.

TABLE SCRAPS: Everyone wants to share a bit of Christmas dinner or treats with their pets but please be very careful - never allow access to bones, gravies and sauces and don't feed leftovers.

HYPOTHERMIA: Winter hasn't been too cold yet but hypothermia can occur and it does affect pets. Cats may be especially prone to hypothermia over the busy holiday season when they choose to stay outdoors to avoid the hustle and bustle inside.