12 Holiday Tips to Keep Pets Safe

**HOLIDAY GUESTS**
Keep pets away from open doors. To avoid stress, leave your pet in a quiet room until guests are gone.

**CHRISTMAS TREE**
Don’t let your pet eat any evergreen needles because they can get caught in their intestines. Make sure pets do not drink any of the tree water because it can often contain harmful bacteria.

**ALCOHOL**
Alcohol can be poisonous to pets and in some cases, can lead to a coma or death. Even seemingly harmless amounts can be lethal. As little as one ounce of alcohol can kill a small cat or dog.

**TOYS & BATTERIES**
If a pet chews on a hard plastic toy, they risk breaking their teeth. Batteries and board games contain zinc, which can cause pancreatitis and renal damage if ingested by a pet.

**PLANTS & FLOWERS**
Many plants and flowers are toxic to pets. Even non-toxic plants can still cause severe gastrointestinal upset if ingested in large quantity.

**LIGHTS & WIRES**
Use electrical cord covers and cord organizers to prevent your pet from chewing electrical cords. If your furry friend gnaws on a wire, it could cause serious injuries like electrical shock or oral burns. Never leave candles unattended.
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PURSES & BAGS
Be sure to keep purses and bags off of the ground and out of reach of pets to minimize the ingestion risk of anything that may be toxic to pets, including medications and candy or gum that contains chocolate or xylitol.

ANTI-FREEZE & ICE MELT
Be careful of using anti-freeze with the chemical ethylene glycol, because it can be deadly to pets. Also avoid using rock salt. If a pet walks on rock salt, it can irritate their paw pads, causing pets to lick or swallow the rock salt, which results in agitation and vomiting.

HOLIDAY SWEATERS
Pet costumes should allow pets to move freely, breathe easily and bark or meow. There should be no dangling parts for pets to tear off and swallow.

TINSEL & RIBBONS
Pets can swallow tinsel or ribbon and it can get wrapped around their tongue. This causes obstructions in their digestive tract and often requires emergency surgery to fully remove.

UNBAKED BREAD DOUGH
Raw dough is appealing to pets, especially if it contains salt. But, ingested yeast dough can rise inside a pet's digestive tract, blocking or rupturing internal organs and potentially causing seizures and respiratory failure.

ORNAMENTS
Avoid putting ornaments on lower tree branches. Hang your most treasured Christmas ornaments high on the tree so they are out of reach of curious pets.