

## Winter Holiday Hazards

### Common Foods that can harm your pets

- **Alcohol**- Alcoholic drinks are commonly available around the holidays and can be dangerous to dogs and cats
- **Caffeine**- Commonly in coffee, tea, energy drinks and diet pills. Caffeine can affect the heart, stomach, intestines and the nervous system.
- **Chocolate**-Theobromine the toxic chemical in chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhea, seizures and arrhythmias. Higher concentrations found in Bakers Chocolate and Dark Chocolate
- **Fatty foods**-Vomiting, diarrhea and pancreatitis can be caused by ingestion of table scraps.
- **Grapes and Raisins**- Even small amounts of grapes or raisins can harm your dog's kidneys or even prove deadly
- **Macadamia Nuts**- Common in cookies and candies. Can cause vomiting, lethargy and loss of muscle control
- **Onions and Garlic**- Can cause an upset stomach to severe anemia with prolonged ingestion.
- **Salt**-Large amounts of salt (sea water) can cause brain swelling leading to neurological signs such as loss of coordination and seizures.
- **Xylitol**-Commonly in chewing gum and can cause vomiting, low blood sugar, weakness, liver failure and death.
- **Yeast Dough**- Gas expansion can result in nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or even bloat and a twisted stomach
- **Marijuana**- More frequently this drug is being made into butter and used in baked goods. Pets will ingest the baked goods or the remnants of butter or marijuana itself.

### Toxic Plants

- **Lilies**- Common flowers in holiday arrangements can be deadly to cats.
- **Poinsettias**- Mild irritation of the stomach and mouth may occur with ingestion.
- **Holly**- Can cause vomiting, nausea and diarrhea
- **Mistletoe**- Gastrointestinal upset most commonly, but can also cause heart problems.

### Misc. Hazards

- **Electric Cords**- Dogs and cats can chew on the holiday light cords and be electrocuted.
- **Ribbons and tinsel**- Pets can ingest these and it may lead to an intestinal obstruction.
- **Batteries**- If chewed can result in burns to the mouth, tongue, esophagus and stomach.
- **Potpourris**- Liquid Potpourris can cause severe damage to the mouth, skin and eyes.
- **Water with fertilizers** -Christmas tree water can contain fertilizers or bacteria and cause some upset to the gastrointestinal tract.
- **Antifreeze**- Can be used in toilets where freezing is a problem. If pets drink the water, Antifreeze is extremely toxic and will lead to kidney failure and death.
- **Rodenticides**- Rodents are more common in the winter months and the use of rodenticide baits may lead to pets ingesting the bait. The most common baits are anti-coagulants and will cause lethargy, coughing, swellings and lameness, all secondary to bleeding and ultimately leading to death if not treated.