



TROY VETERINARY SERVICES

Holiday and winter safety tips- Keeping your pets safe.

The holiday season is upon us, the staff at Troy Veterinary Services would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! Here are a few tips to keep your pets safe over the holidays!

- Antifreeze is one of the most common winter toxins, it attracts your pet because it smells and tastes sweet. Even a very small amount can cause harmful side effects to your pets. Within an hour of ingestion you might see side effects such as vomiting, your pet might act uncoordinated and depressed. Acute kidney failure can occur and it is important to take your pet to the vet right away if you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze.
- Provide your pets with a supply of fresh unfrozen water in the cold winter months. Snow is not a substitute for fresh water.
- Remember, even dogs and cats that are used to being outdoors can get frostbite and suffer from hypothermia. Provide your pets with insulated shelters and please bring them indoors in extreme weather conditions.
- Some salts and ice melts are toxic to dogs and cats if they are ingested, they may also stick to your pets paws and cause them to become sore and dry. Washing your pet's feet with warm water after they have been outdoors will prevent this from occurring.
- Avoid giving your pet table scraps and sweets and please make sure your dogs do not get into the garbage! People food can make your pets very ill.
- Human holiday foods such as chocolate, coffee and alcohol can be very dangerous to dogs. Please keep these foods out of reach. If they are ingested they can cause serious life threatening side effects. Instead feed your pet healthy pet friendly treats.
- Do not leave your pets unattended with candles. It is also a good idea to cover up any electrical cords that your pet might mistake for a very dangerous chew toy.
- Many holiday plants are toxic to pets. Poinsettia, lilies, holly, cedar, pine and mistletoe are only a few examples. Keep pets away from these plants.
- Anchor your Christmas tree! Your pet might be tempted to play in your tree and it can be very dangerous if the tree falls over! Ornaments can also sometimes be consumed by your pet, tinsel is especially attractive to cats! These objects can block your pet's digestive tract and may cause vomiting, dehydration and may require emergency surgery.
- The holidays can be very busy time, this can be stressful for your pet! Have a quiet area that your pet can retreat to if he/she becomes overwhelmed this will allow your pet to get away from all the action and stay stress free!