

Welcome

Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and is staying healthy! Christmas and New Years are almost here, so we will be discussing holiday safety tips. If you have any questions or have a topic you would like to hear about please contact our staff at 630-365-9599 or you can contact us via email at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net



HOLIDAY FOODS

Always keep people food away from your pets. If you want to give your pet a holiday treat, buy or make treats specifically for them. Some foods that are especially unsafe for your pets are as follows:

Chocolate is a very important part of holiday cooking and treats, but it is toxic to dogs and cats. The toxicity can vary based on the type of chocolate, the size of your pet, and the amount they ingested. To be safe, consider all chocolate off limits for your pet.

Sweets and baked goods should also be kept out of reach. Often they are too rich for pets and may contain an artificial sweetener that is extremely toxic. This sweetener xylitol, can be found in many candies and gum, and has been linked to

liver failure and even death.

Turkey and turkey skin and ham, sometimes even in small amounts can cause a life threatening condition in pets known as pancreatitis.

Table scraps including gravy and meat fat also should be kept away from pets. Many foods that are healthy for people are poisonous to pets, including onions, raisins, grapes, and macadamia nuts.

Yeast dough can cause problems for pets, including painful gas and potentially dangerous bloating.



DECORATING

Christmas trees, greenery and lights can make the holidays festive, but also pose risky temptations for our pets.

Christmas trees can tip over if pets climb on them or try to play with the lights and ornaments. You may want to consider tying your tree to the ceiling or a door frame using fishing line to secure it.

Water additives for Christmas trees can be hazardous to pets. Do not add aspirin, sugar, or anything to the water for your tree if you have pets in the house.

Ornaments can be hazardous for pets. Broken ornaments can cause injuries, and ingested ornaments can cause intestinal

blockage or even toxicity. Keep any homemade ornaments, especially those made from food based materials, out of reach of pets.

Tinsel and other holiday decorations also can be tempting for pets to eat. Consuming them can cause intestinal blockages, sometimes requiring surgery. Breakable ornaments or decorations can cause injuries.

Electric lights can cause burns when a curious pet chews the cords.

Flowers and festive plants can result in an emergency veterinary visit if your pet gets a hold of them. Amaryllis, mistletoe, balsam, pine, cedar, and holly are among holiday plants that can be dangerous and even poisonous to pets that eat them. Poinsettias can be troublesome as well.

Candles are attractive to pets. Never leave a pet alone in an area with a lit candle; it could result in a fire.

Potpourris should be kept out of reach of pets. Liquid potpourris pose risks because they contain essential oils and detergents that can severely damage your pet's mouth, eyes and skin. Solid potpourris can cause problems if eaten.



HOSTING PARTIES

Visitors can upset pets, as well as the noise and excitement of holiday parties. Pets that are normally outgoing may even become nervous in the midst of a holiday gathering. The following tips will help reduce emotional stress on your pet and protect your guests from possible injury.

All pets should have access to a comfortable, quiet place inside to escape to. Make sure your pet has a room or a crate somewhere away from the commotion that it can go to any time it wants to get away.

Inform your guests ahead of time that you have pets or if other guests may be bringing pets to your house. Guests with allergies or compromised immune systems need to be aware of the pets in your home (especially exotic pets) so they can take needed precautions to protect themselves.

Guests with pets; if guests ask to bring their pets and you don't know how your pets might get along; you should either politely decline their request or plan to spend some time introducing the pets to each other, supervising their interactions,

monitoring for signs of a problem, and taking action to avoid injuries to pets or people.

Pets that are nervous around visitors should be put in another room or crate with a favorite toy. If your pet is particularly upset by houseguests, talk to your veterinarian about some possible solutions **or consider boarding the pet during the festivities.**

Exotic pets make some people uncomfortable and may be more stressed by gatherings. Keep exotic pets safely away from the commotion of the holidays.

Watch the exits. Even if your pets are comfortable around guests, make sure you watch them closely, especially when people are entering or leaving.

I.D. tags and microchips reunite families with their pets. Make sure your pet has proper identification with your current contact information, particularly a microchip with up to date, registered information. If they do sneak out, they are more likely to be returned to you.

Clear the food from your table, counters, and serving areas when you're done using them. Make sure the trash gets put out where your pet can't reach it. Dispose of carcasses and bones, anything used to wrap or tie the meat, in a covered, tightly secured trash bag placed in a closed trash bin behind a door where your pet can't access it. Make sure all trash is cleared away and put where your pet can't reach it including ribbon and packing!

WHEN YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE

Unplug decorations when you're not around. Cats, dogs and other pets are often tempted to chew on electrical cords.

Take out the trash to make sure your pets can't get into it.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Whether you take your pets with you or leave them behind, take these precautions to safeguard them whenever you're traveling.

Interstate and international travel regulations may require you to have a health certificate from your veterinarian. Learn the requirements for any state you visit or pass through, and schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to get the needed certificate within the time frame required by those states.

Pets in vehicles should always be safely restrained and should never be left alone in the car in any weather. Use a secure harness or carrier, placed in a location clear of airbags. Never transport your pet in the bed of a truck.

If you're traveling by air and considering bringing your pet with you, talk with your veterinarian first. Air travel can put some pets at risk, especially short nosed dogs.

Pack for your pet as well as yourself if you're going to travel together. In addition to your pet's food and medications, this includes bringing copies of their medical records, information to identify your pet if it becomes lost, first aid supplies, and other items.

Boarding your dog while you travel? Talk with your veterinarian to find out how best to protect your pet from canine flu and other contagious disease, and to make sure your pet is up to date on vaccines. All boarding kennels require your dog to be up to date on rabies, distemper, Bordetella (kennel cough), and many require the canine flu vaccine and a negative fecal. Cats are required to have rabies and feline distemper, and some boarding kennels require cats to have a

leukemia vaccine and a negative fecal. If you have never boarded your pet before ask your veterinarian for a recommendation, or ask friends who may have used boarding facilities before. You can also go to a few kennels and tour them to make sure you would feel comfortable leaving your pet there.



Whatever you decide to do, plan in advance! Make sure to have readily available;
Your veterinarian's clinic phone number
24/7 emergency veterinarian clinic
ASPCA poison Control Hotline 888-426-4435 (a fee may apply)

We will be open Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve until 1 pm, and closed all day Christmas and New Year's Day. We will reopen on Monday Dec. 27th and Monday January 3rd at 8 a.m.

Dr. Cechner will be out of town from Jan. 13th until Jan. 31st. We will have a relief vet, Dr. Orals filling in for her on Jan. 17th, 18th, 20th, 24th and 25th. His hours will be from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. Dr. Orals does not treat exotics and no surgeries will be scheduled during the time Dr. Cechner is gone.

We will not have a Dr. available on the dates of Jan. 13th, 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, 27th, 28th and 29th. And as usual, we don't have a Dr. available on Wednesdays or Sundays.

From Dr. Cechner and the staff of Elburn Animal Hospital a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!!





If you have any questions or comments, please email us at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net or call 630-365-9599! If you have a subject you would like covered in our newsletter please let us know!