



TRANQUILPET

Canine Aquatics & Holistic Healing Center
Swimming - Massage – Reiki
Essential Oils for Animals
Pet First Aid, CPR & Pet Safety Workshops

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The 12 “Pet Safety Tip” Days of Christmas

Holiday times can be joyful or a source of stress for all of us, and that goes for our pets, too!

With some advanced planning and a little training, you can make things more festive and fun for your pet(s) and less stressful for you!

And ... just like what we tell ourselves at the beginning of each holiday try to keep your pet’s eating and exercise habits as **close to their normal routine** as possible.

Pets can be very sensitive to changes in their environment and routines.

During holidays, we take time off from work and school, house guests come to stay, or visitors roll through the home in droves


I know it is difficult during the holidays, but try and preserve a few of your pet’s routines:


- regular meal schedules
- walks
- exercise or play sessions
- and arrange a place in your home for “quiet time”

The added stress and excitement of holiday festivities can increase your dog’s thirst too, so make sure your dog has plenty of fresh water to drink.

If your dog is the excitable or anxious type, they might benefit from a **Thundershirt**, to help him calm down and relax.

But ... **always ask your veterinarian** about their recommendations as well, and how much you should use and how often.

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- 1. Plants:** Many holiday plants can lead to health problems in dogs and cats. Among the plants to keep out of reach are holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and lilies.
- 2. Snow Globes:** often contain antifreeze, which is poisonous to pets.
- 3. Christmas Tree:**
 - 🐾 Pine needles,** when ingested, can puncture holes in a pet's intestine.
 - 🐾 Anchor trees** to keep it from falling on pets
 - 🐾 Tree Water:** Do not let pets drink the holiday tree water. Some may contain fertilizers, and stagnant tree water can harbor bacteria.
 - 🐾 Tree Water:** Do not add aspirin to tree water. If a pet ingests the aspirin-laced water, their health or even life can be at risk.
 - 🐾 Electrical Cord:** The extra cords and plugs can look like chew toys to pets. Tape down or cover cords to help avoid shocks, burns or other serious injuries. Unplug lights when you are not home.
 - 🐾 Tinsel, popcorn strands, and other garland-like decorations:** can cause serious internal injuries if ingested.
 - 🐾 Ornaments:** Ingestion of any ornament, can result in life-threatening emergencies. Even ornaments made from dried food can lead to ailments.
 - 🐾 Avoid toxic decorations:** Bubbling lights contain fluid that can be inhaled or ingested, snow sprays and snow flock can cause reactions when inhaled, styrofoam poses a choking hazard, and water in snow scenes may contain toxic organisms such as Salmonella.
- 4. Ribbons, string, and other wrapping accessories:** can lead to choking or strangulation for a curious pets.
- 5. Candles:** Make sure they are perched on high shelves out of your pet's reach! Never leave a lit candle unsupervised as they are easily knocked over and quickly become a fire hazard. Use fireplace screens to avoid burns.

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Christmas candies containing the artificial sweetener **xylitol** can also be poisonous to dogs. Even small amounts of **xylitol** can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar and subsequent loss of coordination and seizures. And while **xylitol toxicity** in cats has yet to be established, it's better to be safe than sorry.

If you suspect your pet has ingested any of these items or any other questionable substance, call your veterinarian, **Pet Poison Helpline** or **ASPCA** for assistance. Accurate and timely identification of the suspected substance is very important. Having the container, package, or label in hand will save valuable time and may save the life of your pet.

(Go to last page for emergency contact info.)

6. Toxic Foods:

- 🐾 **Alcohol**
- 🐾 **Candy:** contain artificial sweetener xylitol can also be poisonous to dogs
- 🐾 **Chocolate:** (dark/baking)
- 🐾 **Fatty Foods:** rich, unfamiliar – can cause gastrointestinal upset
- 🐾 **Toxic Turkey:** turkey skin, turkey drippings, turkey string
- 🐾 **Bones:** Certain bones can lacerate or obstruct your pets' insides
- 🐾 **Sage and other herbs:** contain essential oils and resins that can cause gastrointestinal upset and central nervous system
- 🐾 **Onions and onion powder:** found in stuffing and other foods, will destroy your dog or cat's red blood cells, which can lead to anemia.
- 🐾 **Grapes and Raisins:** contain a toxin that can cause kidney damage to both dogs and cats
- 🐾 **Raw Bread Dough:** when ingested, an animal's body heat causes the dough to rise in his stomach. As it expands, the pet may experience vomiting, severe abdominal pain and bloating, which could become a life-threatening emergency, requiring surgery.
- 🐾 **Cake batter:** contains raw eggs

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7. **Packages and wrappings:** Keep pets away from gift packages and gift wrapping area. Ingested string, plastic, cloth and even wrapping paper can lead to intestinal blockage and require surgical removal.
8. **Toys:** Dogs have been known to tear their toys apart and swallowing the pieces, which can then become lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines. Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible.
9. **Garbage:** Keep pets away from the garbage.
10. **New Year's Noise:** As you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines, if ingested, perhaps necessitating surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears.
11. **Check batteries:** on your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and other safety devices. Replace. Safety, of course, is the key reason ... but ... when batteries run low, the devices emit alarm sounds at frequencies that can be painful and frightening to many pets. If you're not home when the alert/alarm sounds, your animals will have to endure that sound until you return, which can be traumatic.

12. A pet is a gift for life! **Never** give a pet as a **surprise holiday gift.**

Resources

- APSCA
- Irresistiblepets.com
- Pet Care
- Pet MD
- Pet Poison Helpline
- Superdogcharliepants.blogspot.com

*Disclaimer:

TranquilPET, shall not be held, in any way, liable for the currency of information or for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided. All suggestions and/or products named should not be solely relied upon and it is your responsibility to discuss with your medical doctor or veterinarian before using. Every effort has been made by TranquilPET to research the products named to make sure they are safe for our pets.

If you have any questions or comments, please let Jean know. If you have any additional suggestions, I would love to add to my growing list. Please email Jean: Info@TranquilPet.com.

Thank you.

Jean Brusavich, TranquilPET

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POST ON YOUR FRIDGE

1. Your vet's phone number: _____
2. Your local pet emergency hospital: _____
3. ASPCA Hotline or Pet Poison Helpline

DO NOT CALL 911 – while the operators may be sympathetic to your problem, they are not trained toxicologists and cannot help.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET HAS INGESTED A TOXIN

Be sure to have all information ready for your veterinarian, including the type of toxin (it's helpful to bring the toxin's container along) and your pet's basic information (breed, weight, etc.). It is also helpful to collect anything that your pet may have chewed or vomited in a sealable plastic bag.

Contact Your Veterinarian or the [ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center](#) or [Pet Poison Helpline](#).

Be prepared – always keep your veterinarian's phone number as well as the phone number of the closest 24 hour emergency vet clinic close at hand. If your pet is not exhibiting any symptoms just yet or there is not a 24-hour vet hospital nearby, you may want to call the poison control center.



(888) 426-4435

www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control

24 hours a day, 365 days a year
\$65 consultation fee



(855) 764-7661

www.petpoisonhelpline.com

24-7 Animal Poison Control Center
\$59 per incident fee applies

SIGN UP:

Dog Food Advisor is a public service website designed to help you make an informed decision when buying dog food. Visit: www.dogfoodadvisor.com

Pet Food Recall Alerts: sign up here: www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-recall-alerts

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Know the Signs of Poisoning in Dogs and Cats

Signs of poisoning in dogs and cats can range tremendously based on the underlying poison. If you think your dog or cat has been poisoned, call your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline or ASPCA Hotline (listed on previous page) immediately for assistance! When it comes to poisoning, the sooner you treat your dog or cat, the better the outcome.

While this list is not exhaustive or complete, some common signs of poisoning generally include:

Gastrointestinal signs

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Drooling/hypersalivating
- Inappetence (loss of appetite)
- Nausea

Internal bleeding

- Coughing of blood
- Vomiting blood
- Pale gums
- A racing heart rate
- Weakness or lethargy
- Collapse

Kidney failure

- Halitosis (“uremic” breath)
- Inappetence
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Excessive thirst or urination
- Absence or decreased urination

Liver failure


- Jaundice/icterus/yellow discoloration to the gums
- Weakness or collapse secondary to a low blood sugar
- Dull mentation, acting abnormally
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Black-tarry stool (melena)


For more information on pet poisons, visit the ASPCA website:

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>

Or Pet Poison Helpline website: <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/?s=pets+poisons&x=0&y=0>

All pet poison information taken from the Pet Poison Helpline website and the ASPCA website.

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