



## Holiday Safety Tips

Be careful how you deck your halls! The holiday season is generally a time of family togetherness in which even our pets participate. One's thoughts generally are far from thoughts of injury; however one must be aware of some important seasonal hazards in order to ensure a happy holiday season.

### Ribbons & Tinsel

These are of special interest to playful cats and kittens who see these materials as toys (or prey) to be chased, pounced upon, chewed or swallowed. While chasing and pouncing pose no health threats, chewing and swallowing do, as these strings or "linear foreign bodies" can catch in the GI tract, leading to bunching of intestine as the body tries in vain to move the string or ribbon through. This is a life-threatening condition requiring surgery for correction. Closely supervise animals who play with string.

### Electric Light Cords

These are also tempting to cats who like to play with string as well as puppies who are teething and interested in chewing. If a pet bites through an electrical cord, it could result in a severe burn to the tongue which causes the pet's lungs to fill with fluid, causing respiratory distress. This is also an emergency requiring immediate veterinary attention.

### Poinsettia

Consuming this festive-looking plant can be irritating to the mouth and stomach of the dog or cat that chews on or eats it. Contrary to popular belief, poinsettia is not specifically toxic.

### Mistletoe

The fact that there are several types of mistletoe

makes it difficult to predict the clinical signs of poisoning. Some mistletoes produce only stomach upset while others may lead to liver failure or seizing. Consider mistletoe to be a hazardous substance and keep it inaccessible to pets and children.

### Dietary Indiscretion

We all like to include our pets in holiday meals with the rest of the family, but try to keep in mind that sudden rich diet changes are likely to upset a pet's stomach. Vomiting and diarrhea are not uncommon. If leftovers are of an especially fatty nature, the pancreas may become inflamed and overloaded. This condition is serious and may require hospitalization.

### Antifreeze

Antifreeze is a major seasonal hazard for pets. Its sweet taste is attractive and very small amounts are extremely toxic. Thoroughly clean spills and store antifreeze in a secure manner. Non-toxic antifreeze, formulated with propylene glycol instead of ethylene glycol, can be purchased in many retail locations. Immediate signs of antifreeze toxicity include vomiting and loss of balance. Antifreeze toxicity must be treated within a few hours to ensure a successful outcome.

### Rat and Mouse Poison

Rat and mouse poison is often accessible to pets during colder months. The time between ingestion of rat poison and development of life-threatening hemorrhage can range from one to seven days. Do not use rat poison in any area to which a pet has access.

From VeterinaryPartner.com



## Winter Flea Facts

Many people believe when winter comes we no longer have to worry about fleas on our pets. Here are a few statistics to show otherwise:

- One in seven dogs has fleas in the winter.
- One in three cats suffers from fleas in the winter.
- In a study in over 47 states, veterinarians reported that 30% of cats and 16% of dogs

had fleas in December; 28% of cats and 15% of dogs in January; 24% of cats and 13% of dogs in February.

- Dogs and cats living in warm weather states had a higher percentage of flea infestation. The infestation rates usually surpassed 40%
- This survey was conducted by Merial from Dec. 2002—Feb 2003.

### Kitty Cookies

- 1 c. whole wheat flour
- 6 oz. Can tuna in oil - undrained
- 1 tbs. Vegetable oil or bacon grease
- 1 egg

Combine ingredients; mix well; add small amounts of water if mixture is too thick. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface and roll out to 1/4 in. thick. Cut the dough with a cookie cutter and place 1 in. apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes, or until firm. Allow to cool on wire racks.

### Featured Websites

- American Kennel Club — [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)
- American Veterinary Dental Society— [www.avds-online.org](http://www.avds-online.org)
- American Veterinary Medical Association—[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)
- Pet Dental Website— [www.petdental.com](http://www.petdental.com)
- Humane Society of the United States— [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)
- PetFinder.com— [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)

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## Feral Cat Angels

Many experts estimate that there are at least as many "feral" cats as there are pet cats in any community. Feral cats are either born to strays or are cats who were abandoned by their original owners. Many intact (unspayed or unneutered) pet cats become feral after they wander off during mating season. Feral cats live a miserable existence exposed to the elements, subsisting on little food and are in danger from dogs, other animals and a variety of diseases. Often feral cats are dead by the time they are two years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Crawford of Wichita have taken pity on feral cats and are helping them one cat at a time. The Crawfords trap the cats and bring them in for spaying or neutering, examination and vaccinations.



The Crawford's love and compassion for animals has helped many feral cats in their community.

The cats are then returned to their neighborhood where the Crawfords help provide food, water and care. A notch in an ear identifies each cat as having been sterilized.

Experts on feral cat problems believe that the Trap Neuter Release (TNR) approach to feral cat management provides the greatest chance of long-term control of feral numbers and enhancement of the cats' quality and length of life.

" I can't stand to see the animals go hungry, especially in the winter. We feel that people should take care of the animals whether they are their own or not. " shares Mrs. Crawford.

## A Not-So-Bitter Pill

Most cat owners and many dog owners who are faced with medicating their pets know that giving a pill is sometimes challenging. Pets who are on life-long medication often become very adept at spitting out the pill once the cream cheese or peanut butter is licked off.

New formulations have produced medication that can be absorbed transdermally through the skin, allowing pet owners to apply an ointment to the inside of an ear instead of giving a pill by mouth. Many pharmacies are also formulating pet medication in

**Now pharmacies are able to give pet owners a easier option when it comes to giving their pets medications!**

favorite dog and cat flavors such as chicken, tuna or cheese. One of our local pharmacies, the Medicine Shoppe, has worked with several of our clients to produce tastier medication. Sally Mackey, an especially talented Shih Tzu pill-spitter, takes her medication

thanks to The Medicine Shoppe flavoring.

## CKVC Begins Blood Bank

We are pleased to announce that Central Kansas Veterinary Center is now collecting and storing canine blood products. This will allow us to give life-saving transfusions more quickly and provide better care to our patients. Our goal is to have prepared blood products available at all times. We currently have five blood donors. We are looking for healthy dogs between two and eight years of age who weigh more than 66



Your dog can be a blood donor too!

pounds and are in good body condition. All of our blood donors are blood typed and screened for various diseases at no cost to you. Annual exam with vaccinations, annual heartworm testing with a blood chemistry profile and complete blood count and a fecal evaluation to test for parasites will also be provided at no cost. Donors will also receive discounts in any emergency care they might someday need. If you would be willing to include your dog in our donor program please contact Janessa or Dr. Howell at 663-8387.



## It's More than a Bright Smile

Imagine how your teeth would feel if you didn't brush them for a couple days. How about a couple weeks or even a couple years? Yuck! We're appalled at that thought, yet many of us wouldn't dream of ever brushing our pets' teeth. However, pets need dental care as much as we do.

Periodontal disease and gingivitis are more common in pets than in people. Eight of ten dogs and seven of ten cats over five years have dental disease.

Dental care isn't just a matter of cosmetics. Bad teeth are painful and allow dangerous bacteria to invade your pet's bloodstream where internal organs like the heart, liver and kidneys can be infected. Unhealthy teeth and gums can shorten your pet's life.

Human dentists endorse brushing at least twice daily, flossing and using antibacterial rinse to treat periodontal disease. Most people probably couldn't do this for their pets. The good news is there are things you can do to keep your pet's teeth healthy, with your veterinarian's help and a little education.

### Dental Examination and Cleaning

Regular dental exams are important to determine if a dental cleaning is required. Dental cleaning and polishing requires general anesthesia but thanks to advanced technology, this procedure is very safe. For the best protection, call to speak with a

technician or doctor about applying a barrier sealant that prevents plaque from adhering to teeth. Your pet will go home with healthy, white teeth, and "kissable" fresh breath.

### Home Care

There are many products available. Some of them make a difference and some really don't. For example, foods, treat and chew products specifically designed and labeled for dental use help. Regular brushing helps even more. Choose a toothpaste specifically made for pets. For arguably the best protection, ask your veterinarian about Oravet. You apply this product weekly right onto your pets teeth. Oravet helps protect those teeth by preventing plaque from sticking.

Veterinary dentist Dr. Jean Hawkins of Boise, ID explains "Getting your pet's teeth cleaned under anesthesia is very important. That is kind of like finally getting your old dirty car washed; and Oravet is like adding the wax. The wax job gives your car further protection. But then you have to continue to maintain the car with more waxing when needed."

February is National Pet Dental Health Month. We will again discount by 10% all dental procedures performed during February. Please call us with any question regarding dental care for your pet.

Provided by: Merial PawPrints Newsletter

## Congratulations to Cruisin' for Critters



**Cruisin' for Critters raised \$1725.00 in contributions toward construction of the new animal shelter.**

Tatia Millison, CKVC staff member, organized the Cruisin' for Critters Bike Run held October 16. Tatia expressed thanks to participants and sponsoring businesses and hopes to see you all again at Cruisin' for Critters 2005!

## Most Popular Breeds

The most popular dog in America is the Labrador retriever. Labs have owned the top slot on the American Kennel Club for 14 years. Previously Cocker Spaniels were number one. Here are the remaining top ten breeds:

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2) Golden Retriever           | 8) Poodle (all varieties) |
| 3) Beagle                     | 9) Shih Tzu               |
| 4) German Shepherd Dog        | 10) Chihuahua             |
| 5) Dachshunds (all varieties) |                           |
| 6) Yorkshire Terrier          |                           |
| 7) Boxer                      |                           |



Whatever breed your pet is, it is number one on our list!

The Cat Fanciers' Association is the largest registry of purebred cats. Here are their top five most popular feline breeds:

- 1) Persian
- 2) Maine Coon
- 3) Exotic
- 4) Siamese
- 5) Abyssinian

Provided by: Merial PawPrints Newsletter

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We're on the Web!  
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days a week.

## Best Wishes for Happy Holidays from all of us at CKVC!

The holiday season is a time for appreciating the blessings all of us enjoy. Among our many blessings are the animals who share their lives with us and who teach by example lessons about loyalty, joyful living and unconditional love. We at CKVC are humbled that you have entrusted the care of your animal companions to us and will continue to strive to consistently provide the best care for these treasured individuals. We also remember all of the dogs and cats subsisting without adequate shelter, food, love or medical care and will continue to work to improve their lives.

