

Food Foibles

We all want to spoil our pets especially during the festive seasons. Avoid these foods or else an emergency room trip may be in order:

- Alcohol-difficulty breathing, tremors, abnormal blood acidity
- Coffee and caffeine-hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors and seizures
- Chocolate in **all** forms-vomiting and diarrhea, seizures, and may lead to death
- Yeast dough and bread- can cause bloating or twisting of the stomach
- Xylitol (an artificial sweetener found in most candies) low sugar levels, loss of coordination, and possible liver failure.
- Meat bones can get caught in the throat, can puncture esophagus or intestinal tract

Not necessarily toxic, but rich foods that pets haven't ingested before can vomiting, diarrhea and gastrointestinal inflammation. In extreme cases hospitalization and supportive care is needed.

Plant Precautions

Although beautiful to look at several plants can be toxic if ingested. Keep these plants away from any curious eaters:

- Mistletoe – Vomiting, diarrhea, low blood pressure, difficulty breathing, and low heart rate
- Holly-vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy (tiredness)
- Poinsettia- causes irritation to mouth and stomach, vomiting may or can occur

Décor Danger

Decorations are a great way to celebrate the holidays but they pose many dangers to pets. Electrical lights and cords need to be kept out of reach. If chewed, your pet might suffer cuts or burns, or receive a possibly life-threatening electrical shock. Along with that, lit candles inside of pumpkins or around the house can get tipped over leading to possible house fires. Tinsel and small ornaments may cause obstruction when eaten, while glass ornaments can tear intestinal lining if broken.

Costumes Cautions

Before you purchase make sure the animals actually like wearing clothes and try on the outfits before the big night to test for undue stress or any allergic reactions. Halloween

costumes shouldn't have any loose parts or fabrics that are easy to chew off and swallow. Animals should be comfy not constricted. Pets should be able to move, talk, and breathe normally.

Stranger Stressors

Some pets get stressed out by strangers or large groups of people. These animals may need to be separated in a closed off room during events so that they don't get unduly stressed. If additional calming methods are needed contact your veterinarian about using Benadryl, Rescue Remedy, or Melatonin.