



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 8, ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE SACRAMENTO CAT HOSPITAL!

Our doctors and team would like to wish you and your family members (including the furry ones!) a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season filled with all that you enjoy. We thank you for allowing us the privilege of caring for your kitties during the past year, and look forward to sharing the new year with you!



HOLIDAY HAZARDS FOR PETS

Though the holidays can be a magical time of the year, they do pose some special dangers for pets. You can help keep your furry family members safe this holiday season by steering clear of toxic plants, holiday treats, and dangerous decorations.

Several holiday-season plants are poisonous or an irritant to animals, including lilies, ivy, holly, mistletoe, holiday greens, and poinsettia. A comprehensive list of toxic plants can be found at www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants.

Keep all sweets safely out of reach of your pet; large amounts of ingested sugar or artificial sweeteners can be extremely toxic. And keep lit candles and simmering potpourri away from your pet at all times; many potpourri ingredients are quite toxic.

If ingested, tree and household decorations such as tinsel, ribbons and bows, foil, angel hair (spun glass), artificial snow, cranberry and popcorn strands, glass bulbs, and metal ornament hooks can cause choking and intestinal obstruction. Be sure to keep decorations and small objects well out of your pet's reach.

If your kitty swallows something he or she shouldn't, the situation can quickly turn serious or even life-threatening. An object too large to pass through the stomach or intestines can cause an obstruction. A linear foreign body, such as string or ribbon, can cause even more damage as it winds its way through the intestines.

Never pull a protruding object from your kitty's rectum. If part of the object is still lodged inside, you may cause serious damage. Pulling a protruding string or ribbon from the rectum can cause irreparable damage higher up the digestive tract.

Typical symptoms of an ingested foreign body include:

- Vomiting, diarrhea
- Abdominal tenderness or pain
- Straining to defecate or producing a small amounts of feces
- Depression, lethargy, inappetence
- Behavioral changes such as biting or growling when picked up or touched around the abdomen
- Pawing at the face or mouth if a string or thread has become wrapped around the base of the tongue

Diagnosing a suspected foreign body typically includes abdominal x-rays. If a foreign body obstruction is diagnosed, surgery may be necessary to remove it. Time is critical because an obstruction often cuts off blood supply to vital tissues. If the blood supply is interrupted for more than a few hours, tissue may become necrotic, resulting in irreparable damage.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested something that he or she shouldn't have, please call us immediately.

HOLIDAY BOARDING AT THE SACRAMENTO CAT HOSPITAL

If you're planning to travel during the holidays, your kitty is welcome to stay with us while you're away. Not planning to travel, but hosting family or guests at your home? A house full of unfamiliar people can be very stressful for your feline family member. Consider boarding your kitty with us while your company is visiting, which gives your kitty a safe, quiet spot during the hustle and bustle of the season.

Our doctors and team members will take great care of your feline family member and make sure he or she receives plenty of love and attention! To stay with us, your kitty must have received a wellness exam at the Sacramento Cat Hospital within the past 12 months.

Stop by our front desk for additional information or to make your reservation—and don't miss our great special offers below!



DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERS FOR OUR READERS

This holiday season, we have two great special offers for you!

Book an annual wellness exam for your kitty by December 31 and **receive \$25 off the regular cost!**

And when you board your kitty with us through December 31, **every sixth night is free!** That's 6 nights of boarding for the price of 5. (Please note that additional charges will apply for dispensation of medications or other treatments while your kitty is our guest.)

For more information about these special offers, please stop by our front desk.

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.

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