



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 6, ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

HOLIDAY HAZARDS FOR YOUR PET

Though the holidays can be a wonderful time of the year, they pose some special dangers for pets.

Several holiday-season plants are poisonous to animals, including lilies, ivy, holly, mistletoe, holiday greens, and poinsettia. Find a comprehensive list of toxic plants at:

<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

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

Tree and household decorations such as tinsel, ribbons and bows, foil, angel hair (spun glass), artificial snow, cranberry and popcorn strands, glass bulbs, small ornaments, and metal ornament hooks can cause choking and intestinal obstruction if ingested. If your kitty swallows something he or she shouldn't, the situation can quickly turn serious or even life-threatening. When an object is too large to pass through the stomach or intestines, it 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.

The most typical symptoms of an ingested foreign body include:

- Vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite
- Depression, lethargy
- Abdominal tenderness or pain
- Straining to defecate or producing a small amounts of feces
- 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 is typically necessary to remove it. Time is critical because an obstruction often cuts off the 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.

Help keep your feline family member safe during the holidays by keeping decorations and small objects well out of your pet's reach. And 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 extremely stressful for your feline family member. Consider boarding your kitty with us while your company is visiting, which offers your kitty a safe, quiet spot during the hustle and bustle of the season.

In addition to beds, toys, and fresh litter boxes, your kitty will receive plenty of love and attention from our doctors and team members! All of our feline guests receive daily weight monitoring, monitoring of food and water intake, and twice-daily exercise sessions. We can administer any medication or special foods that your kitty requires.

We can also schedule your kitty's routine or preventive health care needs during their stay. Wellness exams, vaccinations, dental cleanings, and more can be taken care of. To stay with us, your kitty must have received a wellness exam with us in the past 12 months.

DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through December 31, board your kitty at the Sacramento Cat Hospital and 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.) Please stop by our front desk for more information or to make your boarding reservation.

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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