

Reminders / Ideas For The Holidays

If you've been frustrated trying to keep decorations on the tree and your pets off of it,

these suggestions may help you make your house look festive, keep your pets safe -- and help you keep your sanity.

1. If you really would like to have a tree this holiday season, place one on an outdoor deck, patio, balcony, or porch. Or try a room that is off limits to your pets. An outdoor tree can be decorated to please the birds and squirrels and will be fun to watch for the entire family, including the pets.

2. Instead of a tree: Decorate a fireplace mantel or dining room buffet with miniature evergreens or artificial tree boughs decorated with velvet bows. Or you can decorate with real fruit, nuts or dried seed pods.

3. Hanging garland or gnarled grape vines above the door frames will provide your home with holiday cheer yet prevent your pets from jumping up to it. Decorate with tiny lights, bows or miniature ornaments.

4. Craft stores now carry two-dimensional trees that are meant to hang on the wall. These can be decorated to suit anyone's taste or decor. Once on the wall, your pet will be forced to admire it from a distance.



If you do have a tree: Cayenne Pepper works! Sprinkle the pepper on the tree & tree skirt. (Be careful! It will work on you too!) It'll look like a light dusting of red snow. Chili pepper or Paprika will not work. (Works in the yard too.)

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DANGERS

ELECTRICAL CORDS

If tempted to chew on cords, enclose them in plastic casing available at hardware stores or rub the cords with hot pepper sauce, eucalyptus oil, cayenne pepper or bitter apple.

CANDLES

Place glass chimneys over any candles you burn to keep your pet from accidentally catching itself or your home on fire.

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Make Pets Their Own Tree

Use a two foot artificial tree, decorate it with cat or dog toys. For cats, you can also sprinkle it with catnip.



Household Hints "Gift Wrapping Can Harm Pets"

Dear Heloise:

I am the owner of a young (2 yrs. old) cat named Kasper. I adopted him at the Humane Society. I read numerous books on how to take care of a cat and also watched a video prior to adopting him, but I was never informed of the danger of yarn or ribbon that you use to wrap gifts.

One day my cat was having a grand time playing with a gift that we had wrapped for a birthday party. It had all kinds of ribbons dangling from it.

Not aware of its danger, we allowed him to continue playing with it. We left the room, but when we returned we discovered that the ribbon was missing and, worse than that, the cat may have eaten it! Two days later, the cat's life was in danger. He had some serious medical complications in his digestive tract and was not expected to survive the operation. Unfortunately, Kasper had to undergo two serious operations only because we were not aware of this danger.

I am 11 years old and I pay for all of Kasper's medical expenses, food and litter. I pour all of my heart into my cat, and all of my allowance!

Thanks to the veterinarian, Kasper's life was spared. In the future, I will protect Kasper with all of my might.

I'm doing my part to educate the public of the dangers of allowing your furry loved ones to play with ribbons and yarn.

Kristen
Tampa, FL

We're so happy Kasper survived. **So many PETowners have written us about their pets choking on shoelaces, strings, yarn, ribbon, bows, etc. It's amazing how many household items can be fatal to a pet.** You're a very responsible and loving pet owner and your letter is important for ALL pet owners to read.

Thanks for writing.



TREE TINSEL & ANGEL HAIR TOO !!!

*If you go away for the holidays be sure to leave, for your Pet Sitter:
The phone number where you can be reached, pet ins. info., the name,
phone & address of your pet's vet, & permission for emergency treatment.*

Stow candy and treats.

Holiday Candy can be harmful, even toxic, to pets.

Have some of your pet's favorite treats, manufactured specifically for them, on hand so they can join in the fun.

Plants That Poison

Potential killers or the cause of serious illness if eaten:

CHERRIES (wild & cultivated), twigs and foliage

CHERRY LAUREL, all parts are very dangerous (contains hydrocyanic acids)

CHERRY SEEDS, see CHERRY LAUREL

CHRISTMAS BERRY, berries

CHRISTMAS ROSE, all parts, esp. leaves

HOLLY, leaves and berries

IVY, all parts

MISTLETOE, plant is poisonous, berries are fatal

POINSETTIA, leaves and sap are fatal

TREE -WREATH Needles, bark, pine cones are toxic

And the **WATER** in a X-mas tree reservoir is also harmful



**Know The Location
& Phone Number
Of Your Nearest
Animal Emergency Center**

Wishing You A Safe & Furry Holiday

Information compiled from: L.A. Times, Catnip Newsletter, & Cat Fancy Magazine

rev'03 p.r.