

Christmas

Cautions

Decorations

- **Ornaments:** Pets may think these are toys and eat them and/or choke on them. Glass ornaments can cause cuts on paws to the mouth and digestive tract, if swallowed. They can also get stuck in the GI tract and need surgical removal.
- **Tinsel/Ribbon/Garland/Wrapping Paper:** Pets often find tinsel and ribbon quite intriguing. This is especially true for cats. If ingested, any of these items can get trapped in the intestines. This requires immediate veterinary attention and can be life-threatening if not addressed.
- **Potpourri:** The festive scent can entice pets to investigate. Make sure containers are covered or not accessible. If ingested, potpourri can cause GI upset (vomiting and diarrhea).
- **Christmas Tree Water:** Many pets love to drink the water in the tree stand. Be cautious if you use chemicals in the water to preserve the life of your tree as these can be harmful to your pets.

Lights/Candles/ Electrical Cords

- **Candles or Fireplaces:** Any type of flame candle or fire can cause a burn risk to our furry friends.
- **Wires/Electrical Cords:** Pets may think lights or cords are toys. They may chew them and experience an electrical shock or create a fire risk.

Holiday Plants

- Lilies (all varieties) can cause acute kidney failure in cats. Seek immediate veterinary care.
- Mistletoe
- Poinsettias
- Holly
- Pine tree needles and sap
- Christmas Cactus

Presents

Some holiday gifts may contain parts that can be hazardous if swallowed. Be aware of small toys, batteries and buttons.

Should your pet experience an emergency this Christmas, contact your primary care veterinarian, or contact Charleston Veterinary Referral Center by calling **843-614-8387**.



CHARLESTON VETERINARY
REFERRAL CENTER

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is South Carolina's only VECCS Level 1
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