

D'tails Pet Spa News

Tips, advice and some fun facts about our best little friends who mean so much to us!



A warm hello and welcome to the Christmas edition of this newsletter! This is a truly exciting time of year for the kids, and it's certainly a wonderful season for us, too, when we're able to spend some cozy celebration time with our family and friends. Our dogs, of course, are included in that group of those we love, so let's take a look in this issue at all the ways in which we can have a safe and happy holiday with our best of friends—our dogs!

First, we must recognize that, unfortunately, Christmas can be a terribly stressful time for our pets, as well as an opportunity for them to eat and play with all kinds of things they shouldn't have their paws on. Fortunately for us all, it's usually easy enough to prevent any holiday-related problems, though, when we take a moment to view the situation from their perspective...

The following tips may help you do that. But, of course, you know your dogs better than anyone else does, so be sure to think about any other precautions that could help keep them calm—and out of trouble.

1. If decorating your home for the holidays, take a look around to be sure that ribbons, ornaments and so on are out of your dogs' reach, especially if they have a tendency to play with any new and interesting items. One thing to keep in mind, too, is that sometimes dogs will snatch objects off tables when no one's looking.

When in doubt, simply keep fragile or potentially dangerous items in a room or area they cannot access, or store the items away when you're unable to keep a watchful eye on the pups.

2. If you'll be having a bunch of visitors or taking your dogs to visit other people, spend some time preparing them for the excitement before the big day arrives. This is especially important with dogs who haven't yet socialized with a crowd or young children. By introducing them to others in a calm, controlled environment, and gradually increasing the amount of noise and time spent in the situation, you can help prevent them from feeling overly anxious or excited.

Whatever you're doing this holiday season please try to have a little time to yourself so you can relax and enjoy it all.

Have a Very Merry Christmas!
Garoleen

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D'tails Holiday Schedule

Friday December 24th Closed
Bed and Biscuit check
in and check out by
appointment.

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! Lu Lu, a pet dog in China, gets a lot of attention and treats from others when he's out for his morning walk—because he walks around on his hind legs!

According to *Orange News*, he learned this trick as a 4-month-old puppy when his owner would hold his front paws and walk around. Now, Lu Lu prefers to walk upright and even rests by squatting, with his front paws off the ground.

Thinking of All Dogs this Christmas!

If you're unsure of a gift for someone who happens to be a dog (or cat!) lover, consider making a donation in their name to a local rescue or adoption organization. Even the smallest of donations, be it a few dollars or small bag of food, can make a big difference for an animal in need.

Did You Know?

Some of our favorite Christmastime plants are actually poisonous to dogs when ingested: Mistletoe, poinsettia, and the Christmas cactus should always be kept out of reach of dogs.

Attaching the top of your Christmas tree to the ceiling with a hook and ribbon can keep it upright if the dog should run into it!

"Toys and squeaks dogs might get to play, when Santa comes on Christmas Day!"



A Christmas Puppy Gift?

Puppies are frequently given as Christmas Gifts and the majority of yearly puppy sales take place during the holiday season. Giving or getting a puppy for Christmas could add additional chaos to an already hectic holiday season - many official dog organizations recommend waiting until after the holidays are over to get a new furry addition to your family.

Ask yourself a few questions before fall in love with an adorable puppy and decide to buy it as a gift for yourself or someone else. Purchase price is minimal compared to the lifelong continual cost of proper pet care for its entire life. Is it fair to the gift recipient or the gift puppy if the new owner cannot afford to properly care for a puppy? The cost of quality feed, veterinary care and fencing far exceeds the original purchase price of the animal.

One other thing people fail to consider when they see that cute little puppy is what breed it is and what it was originally bred to do. If you don't want holes dug in your backyard, do not get a terrier. Not all dogs are perfect for all families. If you want a very obedient dog, you still have to remember that hounds will either follow their nose, or they could be a "sight hound" such as a Greyhound and if they see a squirrel or rabbit . . . all obedience training is out the window. You can't fight nature. You have to be prepared for it.

Does the gift recipient (if not a member of your own household) have time to care for and train a puppy? Most dogs are taken to pounds or shelters when the dog is between 8 months and 2 years old. That is the age of what is called the "terrible twos" of dog years when all dogs will assert their dominance in the pack, which is when new pet owners will find themselves at their wits end trying to endure the accidents, chewing, jumping, destroyed personal articles and general "bratty" behavior. Many people don't have the patience to train their pet and can't deal with "a gift gone badly". Sadly many dogs are given up and subsequently euthanized due to lack of room at the shelters or even worse left chained without proper shelter and care.

We live in a throw away society but what people fail to realize is that these animals are dependant on humans for survival. You can't just toss out a cat and figure, "well it can catch mice and live" or "somebody will find him and take him in" when you are tired of dealing with your rambunctious Labrador and you take him for a "ride" out in the country. The vast number of animals abandoned die by automobiles or suffer a lingering death from starvation.

The [American Kennel Association](#) advises against giving a puppy as a [Christmas gift](#), because the puppy requires a great deal of training and attention that may not be available to them during the busy holiday season. Instead, they suggest giving gifts such as leashes, collars, a training manual and toys to let your children know, when the holidays are over, a new puppy will be added to the family. They also advise that after the holiday winds down, it is a good time to begin teaching the children how to care for the pet, distribute the puppy tasks of which they will be in charge and research the puppy purchase together.

Holiday Fare Not Fit For Pets

Every veterinarian awaits the first call of the holiday season from one of their clients who's dog has eaten a whole box of chocolates that the mailman so nicely left by the front door. Last year my first call of such was a triple whammy. The parcel had come from her brother in Hawaii and contained dark chocolate covered macadamia nuts and dark roasted coffee beans. The parcel contained several packages of each for multiple family members and the boxer, Lucy, helped herself to every last one. Needless to say vomiting was immediately induced to try and prevent the effects of the theobromine and caffeine. She had called because she knew that chocolate was not good for dogs, but she had no idea that the other things in the package were harmful as well.

Most milk chocolate candies do not contain enough theobromine and caffeine to be harmful if only one or two pieces are eaten, they may still cause hyper excitability and increased heart rates but not at life threatening levels. Dark chocolate contains much higher levels of these drugs and if eaten by the boxful can create a life threatening situation rather quickly. Teas, baker's chocolate, and cola products also contain higher levels and vomiting should be induced if they are consumed.

Other foods to watch out for include, but are not limited to: Macadamia nuts, alcoholic beverages and foods containing alcohol, bread dough containing yeast, grapes, raisins, currants, and sugarless gum/candies made with xylitol. Most of these things cause a rapid drop in blood sugar, drop blood pressure, and are followed by kidney or liver failure.

If you are unsure as to whether or not a food that your pet has consumed may be harmful to them, please contact your veterinarian for advice. Another helpful source of information is the Pet Poison Helpline, 1-800-213-6680. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provide information for only \$35 per incident.

Seasonal plants can also be problematic. People tend to recognize that the Poinsettia is a potential hazard. Gastrointestinal irritation, including vomiting and diarrhea are common, but are not life threatening and may be entirely preventable if vomiting is induced. Lilies, holly, and/or mistletoe ingestion should be considered emergency intoxications. These plants cause gastrointestinal problems, but most concerning is that they can lead to life threatening heart arrhythmias and kidney failure.

Other things to consider are ornaments such as snow globes and bubble lights that could potentially contain poisonous chemicals. Imported snow globes have recently been found to contain antifreeze which causes acute kidney failure. Clinical signs include drunkenness, excessive thirst, and lethargy which

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Continued on page 3.

D'tails Mission Statement!

It's simple. We aim to provide the pets placed in our care with the best grooming experience possible. From the moment the pet enters our salon to the minute they are returned to their owners arms, pets will be treated kindly and with respect. Understanding not all pets enjoy being groomed D'tails is set up the for pets comfort and safety. With enough positive experiences most pets can learn to enjoy the grooming process or at the very least tolerate it.





suddenly seem to resolve around 8 to 12 hours after ingestion but really the irreversible internal damage has already been done. Heated liquid potpourri and tinsel should be avoided completely if you have indoor cats.

Last but not least, the leftovers should be put in the refrigerator for later or into the trash and placed somewhere the pets cannot access the bags. Pancreatitis can come on quickly if rich, fatty foods are ingested by pets. Signs include abdominal pain, vomiting, and bloody diarrhea following an excursion through the trash, a toddler's plate, or a generous relative who doesn't realize feeding human food to pets that aren't normally given such things can be harmful to their health.

If you suspect your pet has potentially ingested something toxic contact your veterinarian immediately. If it is a food or plant you can safely induce vomiting by forcing the pet to drink hydrogen peroxide: 1 tbsp. / cat, ¼ to ½ cup / small dog, ½ to 1 cup / large dog, repeat every 30 minutes until the animal vomits. If chemical ingestion is suspected contact your veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline, 1-800-213-6680, prior to inducing vomiting as this may not be the preferred method of treatment.

As for Lucy, she was treated quickly and made to vomit shortly after the incident occurred. She did still suffer from a rapid heart rate for several hours and hyper excitability, even for her, and was placed on a mild sedative to help slow her heart down to a normal level. Anyone who has been around a normal boxer puppy can attest to their level of excitement on a regular basis, let alone hyped up on caffeine and chocolate. She was also given activated charcoal to help absorb any of the toxins from the macadamia nuts that had possibly already passed into her small intestine. After having several episodes of diarrhea over the next few days, she gradually began feeling like herself again. It was a happy ending for her because her owner knew to call for assistance right away.

Wishing you a Safe and Happy Christmas Season and a Wonderful New Year,

Amy E. Howland, DVM



This Christmas while the humans are chowing down, give your dog their own little feast. Offer them Nylabones or made-for-pet chew bones. Or stuff their usual dinner—perhaps with a few added tidbits of turkey, vegetables (try sweet potato or green beans) and dribbles of gravy—inside a Kong toy. They'll be happily occupied for awhile, working hard to extract their dinner from the toy.



Appointments while parked locally at:

D'tails in Smith Center:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and 1st Saturday of the Month



Dr. Amy Howland

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| Laser Surgery | Private, at-home Euthanasia |
| Emergency Care | House Calls |
| Hospitalization (short term) | Animal rescue group discounts |
| Longer doctor visits | Microchip Implantation |



Word Search

Find the hidden dog breeds listed below!

W P T U D Y A M W R G O D L
U P E W E L S H C O R G I Q
S O S S M O Q S L P P O M O
S E H C I U G A B V T T J Y
N B I I R I S H S E T T E R
D V H H I S R Z F K L E O R
A T T S A G A E I W J R R D
R E Z U A N H C S T M H L T
H W U R J M K T I X E O F R
F O S B U L L D O G E U L E
T K G S K R S A B A J N F U
Z T E D I I Y S C T O D L P
A B R N O A T J Z O N B H S
S I B E R I A N H U S K Y D

IRISH SETTER OTTERHOUND *SIBERIAN HUSKY*
SCHNAUZER *SHIH TZU* BULLDOG *WELSH CORGI*

Helpful Training Hint!

You may feel the urge to correct or train your dog when they're acting overly excited due to visitors in your home. While a verbal correction may be necessary and helpful in some circumstances, it's easier and more beneficial to the dog if you provide the training in a calm, controlled environment beforehand.

If you expect that your dog will be anxious or overly excited, try giving them lots of exercise before your visitors arrive. And, as time permits, socialise and prepare them for the visit in the weeks leading up to the occasion.

Newsletter Copyright!

This newsletter is provided to you every month so that I can give a little bit extra back to you. The content has been carefully selected in order to provide you with the best possible information. Hopefully you find it entertaining and useful.

Much of the information and articles have been sourced from a Dog Grooming publication company and it is strictly copyright protected. So I'm afraid it can't be copied or re-used. If you are ever given a newsletter from another groomer with similar information and articles, I'd be grateful if you'd let me know.

Scrumptious Gift Giving for Dogs!

In this season of gift giving, you may or may not feel inclined to buy some extra goodies for your best little furry friends. But, for lots of dog owners, this is also a time to pamper the pets with gifts.

From lavish presents such as canopy beds, to shiny new necessities such as food bowls, there's certainly no lack of items available for them. However, if you'd like to include your dogs when preparing food and gifts for Christmas, you may want to try baking some doggie biscuits instead!

The Internet provides countless recipes for homemade dog treats, many of which are both healthy and tasty. Containing ingredients such as chicken, peanut butter, and whole wheat flour, they're often simple to make with items you'd already have in the kitchen.

Ingredients should be natural, without any added sugars or artificial colouring, for the dogs' digestive health. And, like any other treats, they should be given sparingly rather than given as a meal.

Shape the dough as individual dog bones before baking, if desired, especially if it'll stop people from eating the wrong biscuits!

However you choose to include your dogs in this year's celebration, my hope is that you all have a lovely and memorable time with one another.

Garlic Chicken Cookies

(makes 3 doz.)

2 cups powdered milk

2 cups wheat germ

1 cup oats

2 jars of chicken baby food

(or pureed leftover chicken or turkey)

4-6 cloves of garlic

1 egg

Water or chicken stock to moisten

(approx 1/4 cup)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix all ingredients together (my suggestion is a food processor or heavy duty mixer.) Drop by spoonfuls on a lightly greased cookie sheet about 1" apart and flatten evenly. Bake approx 20 mins.



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