



# December Newsletter

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"You and Your Pets Are Part Of Our Family"



**In This Issue:** \*Senior Wellness Special Extended! \*Holiday Cautions \* Holiday hours  
\* Holiday Etiquette for Pets!

## Holiday hours:

Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> NO DOCTOR ( food sales only)  
Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup> Open 10-3, Doctor only 12pm-2pm  
**CLOSED - December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Tuesday December 26<sup>th</sup> Open 10-4  
Saturday December 30<sup>th</sup> Open 10-3, Doctor only 12pm-2pm  
**CLOSED – January 1st**



## Holiday Etiquette for Pets



Christmas is for Humans, and I will not ruin it by opening all their presents.

Christmas lights bulbs, Christmas ornaments, Christmas stockings and tinsel from the tree are not food.



I will not demolish the Christmas tree and drag the string of lights out into the backyard through the doggy door.



I will not dive into the Christmas tree to get all the candy canes ( which I will --eat paper and all)

I will not eat my Christmas Doggie Treats until after they're out of the stocking.

I will not get into a fight with the bigger dog next door, making my humans have to spend Christmas at the vets.



I will not get tangled up in the Christmas tree lights and pull down the tree while trying to get at the cat through the window.



I will not pee on Grandma's Christmas presents that are under the tree as soon as we enter her house.

I will not pee on the Christmas tree.



I will not pee on anyone else's Christmas tree.

I will not steal the neighbours Christmas decorations on their yard.

The bowl underneath the Christmas tree is not a pet dish. I will not drink from it. It will make me sick.



A man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from my fireplace in the middle of the night, and I will not attack him!!



# Celebrating Seniors!

Now until December 30th

Because bloodwork is a key tool in discovering any underlying health problems, many undetectable by physical exam alone, we are offering a senior special this month

**All Senior Pets!!!**

Come in and see Dr. Taylor for a Physical Exam, free medicine trial for those with arthritis, Diet Analysis with a Blood Panel and urinalysis for:

**\$114.86**

Also includes free 4kg bag of food!!

\*This will provide us with your pets "base Normals" and detect disease in their early (and treatable) stages. As we know, early detection increases the chance of successful intervention.

# Coming in Jan/Feb Annual Dental special



Book your pets dental now and save

## Dental Disease in Senior Pets

Periodontal (dental) disease is a major chronic health problem in senior dogs, affecting 85 to 95 percent of all dogs age 4 and older. The first signs of periodontal disease are bad breath and a buildup of plaque on your dog's teeth, which can lead to gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) and periodontitis (inflammation of the soft tissue, ligaments and bone that surround and support the teeth). Without treatment, these conditions can lead to tooth loss and provide entry for bacteria into the blood, which may lead to infection in almost any body organ.

Consult your veterinarian when changes in your dog's mouth are first noted.



## HOLIDAY CAUTIONS!!

The holiday season is full of wonderful family celebrations but it can also be one of the most hazardous times of the year for pets. The BC Veterinary Medical Association offers these helpful tips to ensure pet safety during the holidays:

### TREATS AND FOOD

Holiday treats are meant for people, not pets. Fatty foods and sugary confections can rapidly become **toxic** to an animal unaccustomed to them.

**Chocolate** is probably the most dangerous for animals—even one chocolate truffle could have serious consequences for a small pet. The *theobromine* in chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, irregular heartbeats, seizures, and in some cases, death. Never leave gifts of chocolate under the tree, in stockings or on the table that is easily accessible to pets.

### LIVE TREES AND PLANTS



Tree needles can choke pets if ingested. Live plants---particularly mistletoe and holly---are poisonous and can cause serious illness to pets (also to small children) However the familiar "Poinsettias are poisonous" is not true---this is one of those beliefs that is so widespread that a survey of florists found that most of them believed it to be true.

That's because it has been the conventional understanding about poinsettias for many years. The consensus of government agencies, health centers, veterinary groups, and plant and flower organizations that we've surveyed, however, is that poinsettias are not toxic and do not pose a health threat to children or pets.

### DECORATIONS AND LIGHTS

Decorations, tinsel, candles and electrical wires can all become serious hazards if eaten, stepped on or chewed. Hang all decorations up high and secure them tightly with twine, NOT wire hooks that can fall off and become hazards themselves. Shake the tree to ensure that it is pet proof. Tape all electrical wires to the floor or wall to avoid chewing or tripping. Also, like small children, pets can be attracted to flickering candles and flames in the fireplace. Do not leave pets alone with live flames.



### FRANTIC HOLIDAY FRANTIC PET

The hustle and bustle of the holidays, unusual feeding and sleeping patterns, visitors, new noises, strong smells and other distractions can stress pets. Animals trying to cope may behave strangely and bite or growl without apparent provocation. Try to have a place they can get away from it all, and try to maintain their regular feeding and exercise time. Don't forget, if you're going to be going away for some time arrange a sitter, or look into a boarding facility right away (they book up fast for the holidays)

