

HOLIDAY PET SAFETY PRIMER
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part of the
Traumhof German Shepherd Dogs Article Series



As the Holiday season approaches, we tend to be busy, & we display decorations and other festive items that normally are not within reach to our pets. Decorations, gift wrap, candy, Christmas Trees... all hold infinite curiosity for our puppies & for our fun loving adult dogs.

To help make the holidays less stressful for your pet, we recommend you keep to your pets' routine as much as possible and be sure to find time for puppy play and exercise.

If you are traveling with your puppy, it is always best to travel with his crate, his food, his favorite toys. And try to keep him on a time schedule similar to his normal routine.

If you have guests coming, be sure to remind everyone NOT to feed your pet anything you don't know about and approve first. Also instruct your guests not to leave their things where puppy might have fun with items he is not supposed to have! (Shoes, gloves, hairbrushes, socks!) Be wary about trash baskets that are usually empty, now in use. Puppies/Dogs find these a treasure trove of trouble!

Advise guest of your rules for puppy going outside. Are there gates which must be closed? Doors that should be shut carefully? It is best if you can be sure puppy is not underfoot when guests go in and out. You don't want puppy accidentally getting outside and taking himself for a walk.

Thanksgiving hazards usually involve food! Turkey bones = disaster for your puppy. Do not give your puppy cooked bones!!! Food cooked with spices, sugar, salt, stuffing etc, is not good for your pet.

Is this your first Holiday season with your puppy? We put a baby gate up in our library, so the puppies can not be near our tree without supervision. The water and preserving chemical in the tree stand is poisonous to your puppy. Even untreated tree water is bad for him. Do not let puppy drink from tree stand!

Of course, the biggest draw are those shiny, interesting TOYS on the tree. Some even right at his mouth height! Yippee! Wow! Puppy has to tug hard to get one! UH -OH! The whole tree comes over before puppy gets the ornament!

Be careful about puppies and trees!!!! It is a recipe for disaster if you leave a puppy unattended with tree access.

Other common holiday problem items:

Wires used to hang ornaments. Swallowing one can do serious damage.

Chocolate and candy in stockings. Chocolate is toxic to dogs!

During icy weather, be sure to use PAW SAFE ice melter, as some de-icers will burn your puppy's paws.

During extreme cold your dog - and especially your puppy - should not be left outside for long period of time. Puppies are susceptible to frost bite.

(We only place our puppies in homes where they will be living inside, with their family. Anyone reading this who has a puppy housed outside: be sure to provide adequate shelter, warmth, and fresh water - not ice!)

Happy Holidays!!!!