

## Curiosity can be dangerous to your pet

Taking a few minutes of time can keep your pets safe during the holidays. A young animal's body weight does not allow for experimentation in tasting or eating plants. Many of the plants bought during the holidays are toxic. Curiosity really can kill your pet.

Holiday plants can be extremely dangerous to not only dogs but also your cats. Poinsettias, Holly, Mistletoe, even pine needles from trees can be dangerous if inhaled into their nostrils. Two hotline numbers that can be called in an emergency are:

Pet Poison Helpline - 1 800 213 6680 - Cost \$35 billed to your credit card

National Animal Poison Control Center - 1 800 548 2423 - Cost billed to credit card - request current pricing

Fireplaces and candles are fire hazards. The best policy is to keep animals away from any sort of fire. Screens around wood stoves, fireplaces will keep young pets from being burned. Lit candles should never be left burning with an unattended pet.

Christmas Trees. Decorations that are fragile, glass or parts that break off should be placed higher on the tree out of a dogs reach, or in the case of a kitty that likes to try and use a tree as a perch possibly paper, wooden or plastic toys would be more ideal until the cat learns to leave the tree alone.

Secure your pet. If you have to leave to visit relatives for the day or an evening party, make sure your pet is locked out of the room with the presents and holiday decorations. Crates can be ideal to keep your dog and cat in if there is no easily way to prevent access to the tree, ornaments and holiday décor.