



## Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

### The Hidden Dangers of the Holidays



pets can safely enjoy making those memories with us!

Ribbons, tinsel and gift wrap pose a serious danger to our pets if ingested. While they are not toxic themselves, they can get caught in your pet's stomach or intestines, leading to a life threatening blockage. They are also a choking hazard.

Put ornaments and decorations up high enough so your pet can't get into them. Pets may try to play with or eat ornaments leading to lacerations or a choking hazard.

Holly, Poinsettia and Mistletoe are toxic to our pets. Keep all holiday plants out of the reach of pets.

Additives used to keep live holiday trees fresh are extremely toxic to pets. If possible, block access to the tree stand or use this month's training tip for the "leave it" command.

Light strands and indoor and outdoor decorations can be a electrocution risk if the electrical cords are chewed on or scratched. Hide all cords under a rug, or tie them up.

Holiday lighting and lit candles must be placed out of reach of pets. A knocked over candle can seriously burn a pet, or lead to a fire emergency!

Chocolate, sugar free candies containing Xylitol and

### Health Tip for the Season

Winter weather can be very dangerous for our pets' paws! Exposure to cold temperatures and snow increase the risk of frostbite and deicing salt can cause irritation or burns. Applying an all natural wax, such as Musher's Paw Protection wax to pet's paws can provide a much needed barrier to keep out the elements.

### Training Tip for the Season

From decorations, to lights and shiny bulbs, tree water, holly and poinsettias, and even the stray bit of chocolate or food dropped, the holidays have their share of dangers for our pets. For their safety, this is a perfect time to work on the "leave it" command.

many kinds of nuts are toxic to our pets. Keep all cookies, candies, cakes and stockings where pets can't try to sneak a taste. \*\*Good news for our fur babies though - we have a pet safe holiday cookie recipe just for them included in this newsletter!

Many toys and electronics require batteries - make sure there are none left out for a pet to reach! Batteries pose several risks - choking hazards, chemical burns if chewed on and poisoning if ingested !

A few strategically placed items and a watchful eye can ensure all family members remain safe and happy well into the new year!

In case of an emergency, our blog post Pet First Aid and Emergency Techniques is featured below in our latest posts tab.

### [Pet Sitter Tip for the Season](#)

With the weather turning colder and temperatures starting to dip, please remember that we do NOT walk dogs in temperatures below 30 degrees due to the risks of hypothermia and frostbite. This is for the safety of your pet!

### Featured Pet of the Month



Callie is an approximately 13 year-old, long-hair dilute calico. Hard to believe this gorgeous girl was once overlooked at the shelter after being labeled "too plain" by the shelter.

Callie now lives in a loving home with her 5 other feline "siblings" and a big canine sister, Darby and is loved beyond words.

Callie loves to eat and cuddle and is a mothering spirit to her feline siblings.

Callie is loved by Amy Bluedorn and family.

Thank you Callie and Amy for this wonderful Winter Holiday picture!

Watch our Facebook page for a chance to have your fur baby featured in next month's newsletter!

### Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

#### [Holiday Peanut Butter Bite Cookies for Dogs](#)

##### Ingredients

- 3 Tbsp vegetable oil

- 1/4 cup all natural smooth peanut butter
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 eggs
- 2 Tbsp water
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder



#### Directions

In large bowl, mix all the ingredients well until the dough is stiff; if it's too sticky, mix in a small amount of flour. Knead the dough on a lightly floured surface until firm.

Roll out the dough to 1/2 inch thickness, and cut out shapes with a cookie cutter. Put the cookies on a baking sheet, 1/2 inch apart. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes.

When done, the cookies should be firm to the touch. Turn the oven off, and leave the cookies in for 1-2 hours to harden.

### The Ultimate Holiday Tuna Cookie for Cats

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup tuna
- 2 cups flour
- 1 egg
- 4 teaspoons catnip (optional)
- 1/2 cup of milk



#### Directions

Dry all the water from your tuna can. Place all your ingredients into a bowl and mix. Scoop out some of your mix, roll it into a ball, and place it onto a baking sheet or sheet of tin foil.

Bake the cookies at 350°F for 8 to 10 minutes. Let the cookies cool down for at least 5 minutes.

### Check out our latest blog posts



[Pet First Aid and Emergency Techniques](#)



[Cats and Litter boxes](#)



[Choosing a Dog Trainer](#)

