

Collier County Government



Public Services Division
Domestic Animal Services
7610 Davis Boulevard
Naples, FL 34104

Public Information Coordinator
Camden Smith
(239) 252-5326
www.collierpets.com
www.twitter.com/collierpio

November 24, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAVE A PET-SAFE HOLIDAY – TIPS FROM DAS

Collier County Domestic Animal Services • 7610 Davis Blvd., Naples, FL 34104

As the holiday season is fast-approaching, you will undoubtedly be making lists and checking them twice. For pet owners, this usually means thinking about what the holidays have in store for your favorite, four-legged friends. So here's a list of things to remember this season **from Collier County Domestic Animal Services**, as you try to keep you and your pet's holiday as stress-free and fun as possible.

Thanksgiving is a great time to sit together as a family and enjoy some quality time, and of course, turkey. **Even though your dog may join you in the dining room, human food needs to be off limits.** The bones might look appetizing, but poultry bones can splinter in poor Bruno's throat, possibly choking or blocking his airway or intestines.

If you think some holiday ham and gravy is a good treat for your pooch, you could be sending him the wrong message. **Feeding your dog rich, human foods can upset his stomach, as well as his eating habits.** Being fed by your family and friends can also reward Bruno's begging, which can develop into an aggravating habit.

Holly, mistletoe and poinsettias may add to the Christmas spirit of your home, **but many holiday plants can be toxic to pets.** You'll want to keep Mittens away from these common holiday plants, as well as pine needles, which can puncture her stomach.

When the holiday lights go up, the cords come out. Often times Mittens (cats) will want to chew on them. For cats who like to play and chew yarn, electrical cords seem like fair game. **Don't let little Mittens get burned – electrical safety can be important for your pet as well as your family, so take the time to tape down cords.**

Make sure you secure your Christmas tree so it doesn't fall over when your curious puppy goes to explore the house's new holiday decorations. Christmas tree water can also upset your pup's stomach, so make sure to give Bruno plenty of water and keep him away from the tree stand if you have a live tree.

Snow-globes are popular during the holidays, however be careful because many **snow-globes contain antifreeze**, which can be lethal to pets. If you have cats and dogs, placing snow-globes in a pet-safe area can be difficult, so look carefully where you will display a snow-globe before placing it.

They may be outside pets most of the year, but keep in mind the change in temperature (even here in Florida) and how it can affect your pets. Please bring your dogs and cats inside when the weather gets cold. You wouldn't be comfortable sleeping outside in the cold – **neither would your pet!**

Remember, you're not the only one who might stress out this season. Keep a place for Mittens and Bruno to hang out, away from the hustle and bustle of the holidays if your house will be busy. Have a safe and happy holiday!

-End-