

# HAZARDS

around the house  
Mind these potential pet hazards to keep furry family members happy and healthy throughout the holiday season.

**W**hat brings you and your family joy during the holidays could be deadly for pets. Here are a few items that pose a risk to animals and the symptoms they cause if ingested. Keep these dangers in mind as you celebrate with your furry family members.



**Chocolate.** Depending on the dose ingested, chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, hyperactivity, increased thirst and urination, and an increased heart rate.



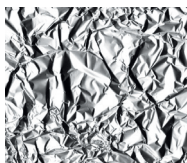
**Sugar-free foods.** Candies or gum—even some peanut butters and cupcakes—containing the sweetener xylitol can cause a drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination and seizures.



**Leftovers.** Bones can splinter and cause blockages. Greasy, spicy and fatty foods can cause an upset stomach. Note that onions, garlic, chives and leeks are all poisonous to dogs and cats. Raisins, grapes and even currants are also toxic to dogs.



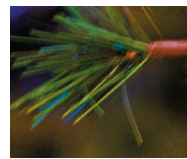
**Alcohol.** Alcohol can cause a pet to go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.



**Aluminum foil.** Aluminum foil and cellophane wrappers can cause vomiting and intestinal blockage.



**Plants.** Lilies, mistletoe and poinsettias are all dangerous for animals. Lilies can cause kidney failure in cats. Mistletoe and holly berries can cause gastrointestinal upset (vomiting, nausea, diarrhea), cardiovascular problems and lethargy. Poinsettias are considered very low in toxicity, but can cause mild vomiting or nausea.



### Christmas tree water.

Christmas tree water may contain fertilizers that can upset a pet's stomach. Stagnant water can also be a breeding ground for bacteria.



### Decorations.

Decorations like ribbon or tinsel can become lodged in intestines and cause an obstruction. Essential oils, often found in potpourri, can be toxic to animals.



### Over-the-counter medication.

Aspirin, acetaminophen, Advil, Aleve, Motrin, Kaopectate and Pepto-Bismol are all common remedies for human revelers, but these medications are toxic to pets.



### Cleaning supplies.

A variety of cleaners can be dangerous to pets; however, drain cleaners, concentrated dishwashing chemicals (including dishwasher tabs), lime-removal products, oven cleaners and concentrated toilet cleaners pose the biggest threat.

If you fear your pet has ingested a toxin, remove the pet from the area and check to make sure it is breathing and acting normally. Do not give any home antidotes or induce vomiting without consulting a veterinarian or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Animal Poison Control. Call **Animal Poison Control** at (888) 426-4435 or, if veterinary attention is needed, go to your veterinarian.