

Genius Dog Newsletter

GENIUS DOG TRAINING

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole." Roger Caras

Holiday Safety Tips for Pets

By Carmela Lutz, CPDT-KA

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The **Christmas Tree** is usually the center of attention during the holidays. Securely anchor your tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. You can also try encircling your tree and gifts with an exercise pen or Scat Mat to keep your pet a safe distance away.

Both live and artificial tree needles are sharp and indigestible. Tree needles can be toxic and cause mouth and stomach irritation. Even needles and the wire of artificial trees could pose a problem. Be sure your dog is not chewing on branches or eating fallen needles.

Do not put lights on the lower branches of your tree as they may get very hot and burn your pet. Tinsel can be dangerous for both dogs and cats. It may obstruct circulation and, if swallowed, block the intestines. Avoid glass ornaments, which break easily and may cut a pet's feet or mouth, and sharp ornament hooks can also become imbedded in your pet's mouth or esophagus.

Because fertilizers, insecticides, flame retardants, and tree preservatives that were used on the tree may get into the water and the water in the tree stand often harbors potentially harmful bacteria, cover the stand with a tree skirt or use other means to prevent

access to the water.

Decorations and wrappings such as ribbons, string, and bows found on gifts can be very enticing to your pet and problematic as well. These can lead to choking or strangulation for a curious cat or dog.

Holiday foods we enjoy cooking and eating can be a problem for your pet. Make sure your guests know not to feed your dog from the table. Rich, fatty foods, like gravy, can cause problems ranging from stomach upsets to pancreatitis. Chocolate, with theobromine, is especially a problem because dogs love its flavor. Problems from ingestion range from diarrhea to seizures and death. If your guests want to offer your dog a treat, have a portioned supply of his or her special treats on hand that they can give instead.

Alcoholic drinks should be placed where your pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure. Clean up glasses after holiday parties. Dogs are often attracted by the sweet taste of drinks, especially eggnog.

Holiday plants - If ingested, holly causes stomach upset and can be potentially fatal to

both dogs and cats. Poinsettias have an irritating sap that can cause blistering in the mouth and stomach upset. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many varieties of lilies can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. Make sure they are kept in places your pets cannot reach or use imitation holiday plants.

Electrical cords & batteries – Dogs often try to chew electrical cords and get badly shocked or electrocuted. Place them out of reach or consider using cord containers or running them through PVC or spray cords with a product such as Bitter Apple or Boundary to avoid having your dog chew on them. Keep batteries for toys or other gifts out of paws' reach, especially smaller batteries (e.g., AA, AAA, or button cell) that could be easily swallowed and cause an intestinal obstruction. A punctured battery can also cause burns to the mouth and esophagus.

Shy or fearful dogs and cats might want to hide out away from all the commotion. Give your pet his or her own quiet place to retreat to—complete with fresh water, food, toys, and a place to snuggle.

***Wishing you and your pets a
Safe Holiday Season!***

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We're on the Web!

www.GeniusDogTraining.com

DECEMBER STORE DISCOUNTS!!!

Check out our clearance section for some great deals. Take an additional 10% off all items (including clearance items) for the month of December 2012.

NEW PET PRODUCTS COMING IN SPRING 2013.

Check out our online store for some great new products. Our store's website is www.GeniusDogTraining.com/store

NEW YEAR TRAINING SPECIAL!!!

All previous clients (orientation, workshop, private training, or group classes) are eligible for 10% off all private training when registered during the month of January 2013.

ENTER TO WIN OUR HOLIDAY DOGGIE GIFT BASKET

We stuffed the basket with some great gifts for your puppy or dog, including shampoo, conditioner, treats, toys, and more.

RULES: Must be age 18 or older to enter. **One entry form per household.** No purchase necessary. Approx. retail value: \$100. No cash value. Drawing will be held on Dec. 21, 2012 at 5:00 PM (PST). Winner need not be present to win and will be notified via regular mail, email, or telephone. Winner is responsible for picking up gift basket at the Villaggio Family Pets store (41493 Margarita Road G-103) in Temecula during regular business hours by Dec. 31, 2012.

Genius Dog Training is independently owned and operated.



Wylie's Corner

Reprinted from Winter 2009

Hi! It's me again. I'm the CEO (Canine Executive Officer) of **Genius Dog Training**.

Well it's that time of the year again...

Even we "Genius Dogs" have trouble understanding some of your human holidays, for instance Christmas.

I thought it was great the first time my humans brought a tree inside the house, no more going potty outside for me! But as soon as I started sniffing around the tree, they tell me to "leave it." What good is a tree if you can't use it to go potty?

What's even stranger is they put toys on the tree, but won't let me play with them. I never saw so many shiny tennis balls

before. At least the cats don't get to play with the shiny string they put on the tree either.

Then they put all these pretty wrapped boxes under the tree, just to tear off all the wrapping paper a couple of weeks later. What's up with that?

Finally, my humans take my stocking filled with treats and dog toys and "hide" it under the tree so I can't find it. Don't they know I can sniff out a pig ear from anywhere in the house?

Well, it's only once a year and I don't want to ruin it for my humans so I just play along. As long as they don't put those silly antlers on my head!



From Genius Dog Training



*"The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed in this article are my own and do not necessarily reflect that of **Genius Dog Training**." – Wylie, CEO*