



The upcoming holidays can pose special health dangers for our four-legged friends. Each year, thousands of pets become seriously injured or ill during the holiday season while their owners are busy with shopping, baking and entertaining.

Christmas is time to watch out for your pup. Put your Christmas tree on table, or put X-pen around it. Remember that some decorations are glass and can damage your dog's mouth and intestinal tract. Same with tinsel. We do not use tinsel on our trees ever. Remember the poisonous things to dogs and never leave them so dogs can access them. (Yes, they can open cupboards and drawers, we had a Vizsla that opened fridges.)

Pets can become very ill from a variety of common holiday meal items, including table butter, meat, candy, raisins and nuts. These foods can result in gastrointestinal upsets and pancreatitis, a painful and sometimes fatal condition. When **these conditions occur, pets might exhibit depression, vomiting, abdominal pain or lack of appetite.** Eating tinsel, ornaments and garlands, even drinking holiday tree sap water, can lead to serious stomach irritation. **In addition, poisoning from xylitol** (a sugar-free ingredient found in baking goods, candy, and chewing gum) can cause a severe blood sugar problem leading to weakness, depression, and seizures.

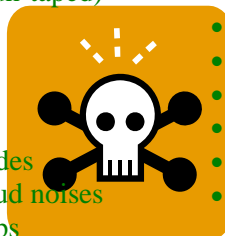
Chocolate is another common cause of holiday accidents for pets. Certain types of concentrated chocolate, particularly baking or dark chocolate, can cause serious health problems depending on the size of the dog.

During the holidays, prevention is really the key. Place high risk items and holiday foods out of reach. Dogs also like to chew on electrical cords, gift ribbons and strings. Watch for symptoms of restlessness, tremors, seizures, vomiting and diarrhea, then seek immediate veterinary treatment for them.

Be Aware of These Holiday Dangers

Protect your pet from these potential health hazards

- Candles and hot wax
- Candies, chocolate and foil wrappers
- Alcoholic beverages
- Electrical cords (uncovered or un-taped)
- Ribbons and strings
- Metal ornament hooks
- Fireplace flames and color salts
- Tree tinsel and confetti
- Carving and kitchen knives/blades
- Outdoor fireworks and other loud noises
- Rich, fatty foods and table scraps
- **Macadamia Nuts**
- **Raisins**
- Stagnant tree stand water and chemicals
- Intricate or fragile ornaments
- **Rock salt and antifreeze**
- Poultry bones and meat drippings
- Small holiday lights
- Angel hair (spun glass)
- **Poinsettias, holly, mistletoe and greens**
- Rich food stocks and seasonings
- Artificial snow and snow flock
- Toys, especially those with small parts



Don't forget to put something good under the Christmas tree for your Vizsla! Like a bone...

