

Holiday Tinsel and Ornaments

Tinsel, while **not toxic**, is very attractive to pets, particularly cats. The shiny, dangling decoration reflects light and can move in the slightest draft — appearing to come alive to watchful critters.



Holiday Tinsel and Ornaments



Once the tinsel and ornaments are consumed, it can **cause serious injury** to your pet. If not caught in time, it could actually be fatal as it twists and bunches inside your pet's intestines. **Immediate veterinary care is required.**

Holiday Tinsel and Ornaments

Bright and colorful tree ornaments can attract your pet's curiosity. Place glass, aluminum and paper ornaments higher up on the tree.



Holiday Tinsel and Ornaments

Pets can **chew and swallow** these fragile objects and not only can broken pieces form sharp edges that may lacerate your pet's mouth, throat and intestines, they could also create a **choking hazard**.



Holiday Lighting and Candles

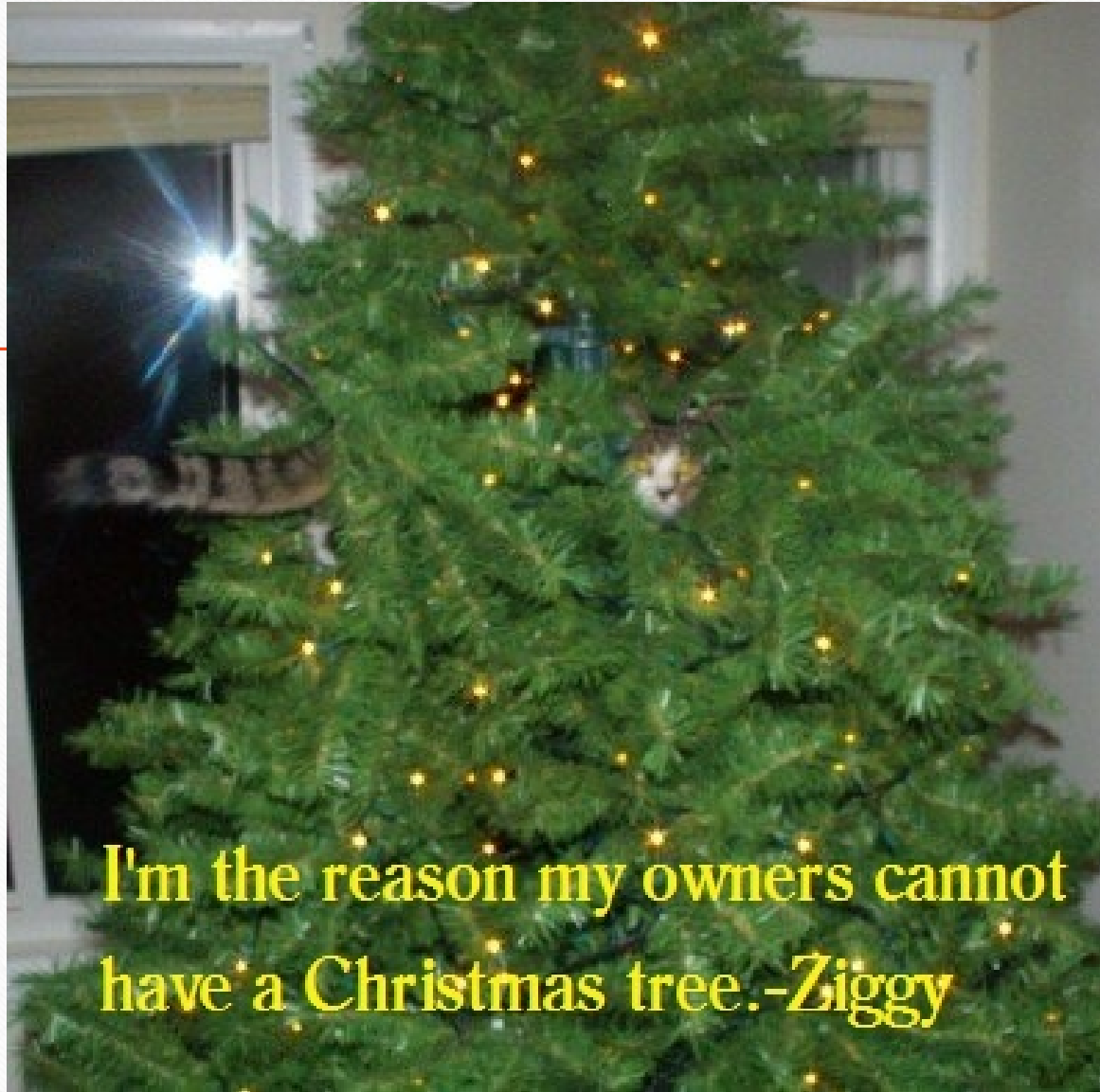
Twinkling, shiny and dangling holiday lights — such as the icicle, netting, garland, curtain, rope and candle varietal — may be another source of danger to your curious pets.



Holiday Lighting and Candles



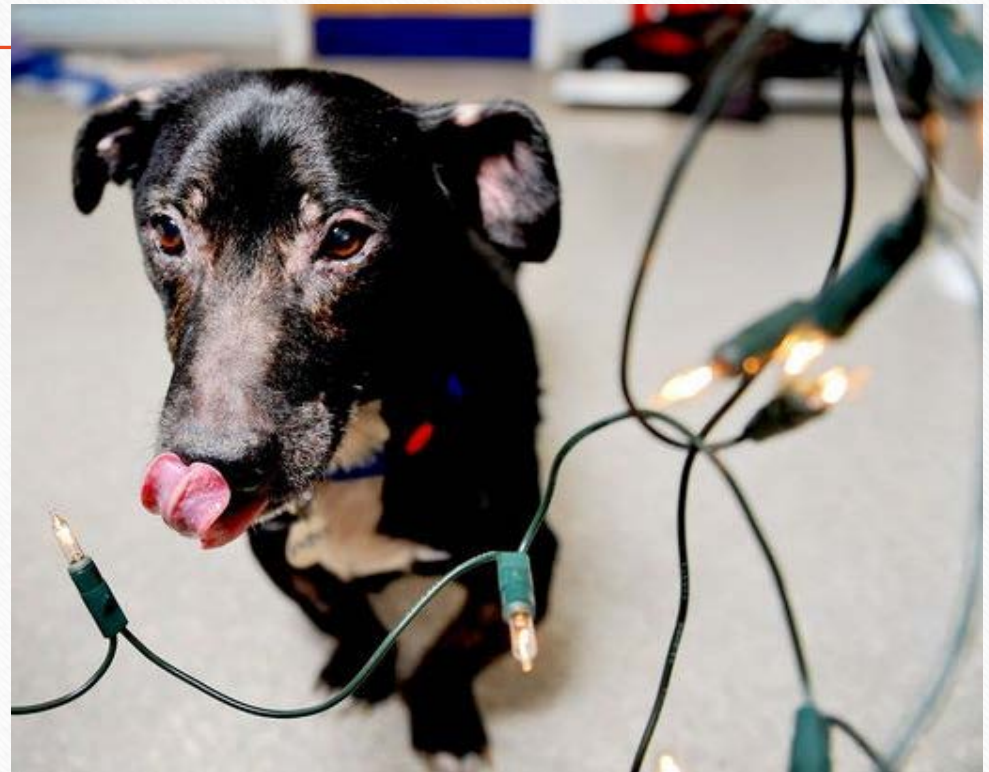
Electrical shock may occur when a pet chomps down on an **electrical cord**, causing tongue lacerations and possible death.



I'm the reason my owners cannot
have a Christmas tree.-Ziggy

Holiday Lighting and Candles

Check your holiday lights for signs of **fraying or chewing** and use a grounded three-prong extension cord as a **safety precaution**.



Holiday Lighting and Candles



If you have **candles** on display, place them in a hard-to-reach spot so that your pets **can not access** them.

Holiday Lighting and Candles

Not only can pets seriously **burn** themselves, but knocking over candles creates a **fire hazard** and may leave a trail of **hot wax** that will easily burn the pads of paws and more.



Gift Wrap Ribbon

You may be tempted to fashion your pet with a **decorative ribbon “collar”** but beware that this could become a **choking hazard**.



Gift Wrap Ribbon

It's best to **quickly discard ribbons** and bows wrapped around holiday gifts so that your curious companions won't be enticed to **chew** or **swallow** them.



Gift Wrap Ribbon



Ingested **ribbon** can cause a **choking hazard** and ultimately twist throughout the intestines, leading to **emergency surgery** and even **death**.

Food Hazards

Festive events often mean **edible treats** — and lots of them. Unfortunately, some of the most popular holiday goodies, such as chocolate, bones and nuts, can be **extremely toxic or fatal to pets.**



My name is Daisy. I eat shoes and recently destroyed an entire roll of wrapping paper. Merry Christmas!



Food Hazards



For a full list of **toxic foods**, visit VPI Pet Insurance at www.petsinsurance.com/healthzone and search for *Toxic Food Guide for Pets*.



You can also visit Pet Poison at www.petpoisonhelpline.com for pet food dangers and **download** an **APP** for your smartphone.

Food Hazards

Keep your pet on her regular diet and **caution visitors** against giving your pet special treats or **table scraps**.



Food Hazards - Chocolate

Different types of **chocolate** contain various levels of **fat**, **caffeine** and the substances **methylxanthines**.



Food Hazards - Chocolate



In general, the **darker and richer the chocolate** (i.e., baker's chocolate), the higher the **risk of toxicity**.

Food Hazards - Chocolate



Depending on the **type and amount of chocolate ingested**, dogs might experience vomiting, diarrhea, urination, hyperactivity, heart arrhythmias, tremors and seizures.

Food Hazards – Trimmings & Bones

Fat trimmings and bones are dangerous for dogs. Fat trimmed from meat, both cooked and uncooked, may cause **pancreatitis**.



Food Hazards – Trimmings & Bones



Although it seems natural to give a dog a bone, a dog can **choke** on it. Bones can also **splinter** and cause an **obstruction** or **lacerations** of your dog's digestive system.



Food Hazards – Sweets and Nuts

Abundant in many cookies and candies, **certain nuts** should not be given to pets.



Food Hazards – Sweets and Nuts

Almonds, non-moldy **walnuts** and **pistachios** can cause an upset stomach or an obstruction of your dog's throat and/or intestinal tract.



Food Hazards – Sweets and Nuts



Macadamia nuts and **Moldy walnuts** can be toxic, causing **seizures** or **neurological** signs.

Lethargy, vomiting and loss of muscle control are among the effects of nut ingestion.



Toxic Holiday Plants

Christmas tree **pine needles** can produce oral irritation, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, trembling and posterior weakness.



Toxic Holiday Plants



They may be **pretty**, but some holiday plants are **poisonous** — even **DEADLY**. As little as a single leaf from any lily variety is lethal to cats.

Toxic Holiday Plants

Holly, commonly found during the Christmas season, can cause intense **vomiting**, **diarrhea** and **depression**.



Toxic Holiday Plants



Mistletoe, another Christmas plant, can cause significant vomiting and diarrhea, difficulty breathing, collapse, erratic behavior, hallucinations and **DEATH** when ingested.



Toxic Holiday Plants



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Be Safe and Enjoy the Holidays!



Taking precautions with pets during these festive times can help ensure that you and your family will enjoy a happy — and healthy — holiday season!

Information compliments of **VPI Pet Insurance** at www.petinsurance.com