

## **Festive hazards for pets: Are you aware of the dangers?**

Don't forget to make sure your homes are safe for your pets during the festive season - we urge you to be aware of a number of hazards and poisons in and around the home of which you may be potentially unaware; many common household and garden substances that may seem innocent can be very dangerous to pets.

Many of the substances we wish to highlight are found in the home during the Christmas period, including raisins and sultanas used to make Christmas cakes and puddings, chocolate, liquorice and sweets which are often given as Christmas gifts, Blu-Tack<sup>®</sup> used to put up cards and decorations, and anti-freeze, which is often used in the winter months.

Festive homes also contain additional hazards for pets, such as electrical cables powering Christmas Tree lights, which could be very dangerous if chewed, and wrapping and bows from presents.

The loss or illness of a family pet is devastating, but poisoning in the home can be easily avoided, so to help you recognise hazardous poisons in your homes and gardens and take simple steps to ensure that they are kept at a safe distance from cats, dogs and other animals, please take time to read through the following list of hazards.

### **1. Substances which can be poisonous to pets include:**

- Chocolate and liquorice (common Christmas gifts)
- Raisins and sultanas (used in Christmas cake recipes)
- Certain nuts
- Xylitol-sweetened food
- Sweets
- Other foods such as onions, avocados and grapes
- Plants, including lilies (and daffodils)
- Cleaning and DIY products, eg: white spirit and lubricating oils
- Car anti-freeze
- Human medicines

### **2. Substances with low toxicity that could cause drooling, vomiting or diarrhoea include:**

- Blu-Tack<sup>®</sup> or other similar adhesives (used to put up decorations)
- Charcoal and coal
- Cut-flower and houseplant food
- Expanded polystyrene foam (used for large present packaging, eg: stereos/TVs)
- Holly and mistletoe (common Christmas plants/decorations)
- Matches
- Wax candles and crayons
- Silica gel (found in packaging).

If you think your pet may have had access to one of the substances that may make them drool or vomit, please ensure they always have access to clean drinking water. However, if there is any doubt or concern about what a pet may have eaten or severity of symptoms it is exhibiting, then contact our duty vet for advice immediately on:

**01722 333291**

Don't ruin your Christmas through carelessness!





## Quick Reference Guide



### Endell Veterinary Group

49 Endless Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3UH

Tel: 01722-333291 Fax: 01722-338778

[www.endellveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.endellveterinarygroup.co.uk)