

A cautionary 'tail' for Christmas.....

To avoid an emergency outing to the vets during the festive period we've put together some tips for pet owners to help keep your four-legged friend safe this Christmas.

Protect your pet from poisons:

- Many festive treats such as chocolate, raisins, nuts, grapes, liquorice and xylitol (found in sugar free treats) are toxic to cats and dogs.
- Some seasonal plants and flowers that we commonly have in our homes at this time of year also have a toxic effect if eaten by your pets - ones to avoid or have well out of reach are poinsettia, lilies, holly and mistletoe.
- As temperatures plummet we're all guilty of having some antifreeze within easy reach in the garage. This is highly toxic to dogs and cats and is one of the most common causes of poisoning at this time of year.



Keep decorations and presents out of reach:

- Your Christmas tree in all its glory can prove irresistible to cats and dogs but ribbons, wrapping paper, baubles, tinsel and tree lights can all be very dangerous if broken, chewed or swallowed.



Forget festive food for pets:

- We all enjoy over-indulging at Christmas but fatty foods and Christmas dinners shouldn't be shared. Everyday foods like onions can be poisonous to pets and rich foods alone could trigger indigestion, sickness and diarrhoea.
- Avoid the temptation to give turkey bones to your dog as a treat, like chicken and goose bones they are hollow and will splinter, raw or cooked, which could puncture your dog's digestive tract.



Give toys not treats:

- If you want to indulge your pet this Christmas visit our retail shop for a festive toy and enjoy some lovely long walks round Rutland Water. Too many treats means excess weight and associated health problems for your pet so keep them to a minimum.

Have a poisoning plan:

- Early signs of poisoning may include drooling, vomiting and diarrhoea. If you suspect your pet has eaten something toxic remove them from the source and contact the vet immediately - do not attempt to make them vomit.

