



# DECEMBER FEATURE

## HOLIDAY PET SAFETY

Hello Apple Grove Veterinary Care Clients! This month we are hosting our 7th Annual Pet Photos With Santa. Bring your furry friends in for a fun night of light refreshments, home-made dog treats, and a complimentary pet photo with Santa. December 14th at 5pm our doors will open, and we will be hosting the event until 7pm. Hope to see everyone there!!

During the month of December, Apple Grove is also focusing on ways to keep your furry friends happy and healthy during the cold weather and holiday season. As the weather becomes chilly it is important to give your outdoor pets a little extra attention. It is important your outdoor pet has a dry area to get out of the wind and snow, and always has fresh, thawed water available.

Many people travel over the holidays each year. If your dog is going to be boarded at a kennel while you are away you should consider vaccinating your dog for "bordetella". Some boarding kennels do require this vaccine, but even if it isn't required vaccinating for bordetella is in the best interest for your dog. If you are taking your pets with you while traveling refer to our July newsletter below for safe travel tips.

Everyone enjoys feasting that is associated with the holidays, but your pets shouldn't partake. Common holiday foods such as turkey, chicken, or ham with bones can be deadly to pets. Chocolate can also be toxic to pets if even a small amount is ingested. Plants, such as holly berries and mistletoe are also poisonous to pets. In the event that your pet ingests something you are concerned could be toxic, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center can be reached anytime at: 888-426-4435.

Other things to keep in mind during the holidays are pets playing with holiday décor. Candles can be very dangerous left unattended with your pets. Pets are attracted to the bright candle light and sometimes try to play with them. Electrical cords are used all of the time, but usually more so with holiday décor. Pets sometimes will chew on the cords which can be very dangerous; try securing the cordson the floor with tape to prevent this problem. Lastly, pets shouldn't be

allowed to play with wrapping paper or ribbons. These could cause serious problems if swallowed.

Well hopefully these friendly reminders will help you and your pets enjoy the holidays safely! Always feel free to call or email with any questions or concerns with your pets. As always we are here to provide every patient with optimum health and wellness by practicing and providing progressive, compassionate, and high quality veterinary care through the educational enhancement of our clients and ourselves.

Hope to see you for 7th Annual Pet Photos With Santa!

As always, feel free to call or email with any pet concerns!

Thank you so much for your time!

*Christie, LVT*

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