

Holiday Safety

The holiday season is full of fun and celebration, but it also brings hazards for our furry friends.

During Thanksgiving, the biggest risks come from food. Turkey bones can splinter, fatty scraps like skin and gravy can lead to painful pancreatitis, and common ingredients such as onions, garlic, grapes, and raisins are toxic. Remind family and guests not to slip treats under the table and secure the trash where curious noses can't reach.

Christmas adds its own challenges with seasonal decor and plants. Tinsel, ribbons, and string can cause dangerous blockages if ingested, while lights, candles, and glass ornaments pose burn or injury risks. Poinsettias, holly, and mistletoe are also toxic if eaten. On top of that, holiday feasts bring the same food hazards as Thanksgiving—plus chocolate, alcohol, and rich leftovers.

New Year's Eve celebration fireworks and loud parties may cause anxiety, leading some pets to hide, tremble, or even try to escape. Keep pets indoors in a quiet, secure space with familiar bedding and toys, and consider calming aids if they are especially nervous. Remind guests not to share party food or drinks—alcohol, fatty snacks, and chocolate desserts are all dangerous for pets.

ASPCA Poison Control (888) 426-4435



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Cold Weather Joint Care

Just like people, pets often feel the chill in their joints when the temperature drops. Cold, damp weather can make arthritis pain and stiffness more noticeable, especially in senior pets or those with past injuries. You may notice your pet slowing down, hesitating on stairs, or being less eager to jump or play.

To help keep them comfortable, provide a warm, soft place to rest away from drafts and slippery floors. Gentle exercise keeps joints flexible, while maintaining a healthy weight reduces strain. Ask us about joint supplements and medications that can ease arthritis pain—many pets benefit from products containing glucosamine, chondroitin, or omega-3 fatty acids. With a little extra care, your pet can stay cozy and mobile all winter long.

Holiday Hours

The holidays are just around the corner, and we want to make sure your pets stay happy and healthy all season long!

Please note our adjusted hours for the upcoming holidays: we will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, and will close early on Christmas Eve at noon.

If your pet needs medication refills, prescription diets, or routine care before the holidays, please plan ahead and contact us early to ensure we can accommodate your needs.

We wish you and your furry family members a joyful, safe holiday season!



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Year's End 2025

Send us your
email to receive
reminder's and
newsletters
digitally.



Boarding & Travel Tips

Planning a trip soon? Whether your pet is joining you on your adventure or staying at a boarding facility, a little preparation can make the experience smoother for everyone. Before boarding, be sure to check the facility's vaccine and health requirements—most require current Rabies, Distemper/Parvo and Bordetella for dogs, and Rabies and FVRCP for cats. Some facilities may also ask for influenza or additional parasite prevention depending on the season and region, so it's always best to confirm well in advance. Ensuring your pet is protected ahead of time helps keep both your pet and the whole facility safe.

When packing for your pet, include familiar items such as their regular food, a favorite blanket or toy, and any daily medications they take. Bringing comforts from home helps reduce stress and keeps their routine consistent. If your pet tends to be nervous, pheromone sprays, calming treats, or veterinarian-recommended anxiety support can make a big difference during their stay. It's also helpful to provide the facility with clear instructions on feeding, medication timing, and any quirks your pet has—small details go a long way in helping staff provide personalized care.

If your pet is traveling with you, make sure they are safely secured with a travel crate, seatbelt harness, or carrier that allows them to stand and turn comfortably. Plan for frequent breaks, offer water regularly, and avoid feeding large meals right before car rides to minimize tummy upset. For pets who experience motion sickness or travel anxiety, talk with us about medications or strategies that can help make the trip more enjoyable.

With thoughtful preparation, your pet's time away from home—whether on the road or at a trusted boarding facility—can be safe, calm, and positive. A little planning now means a much happier journey for both you and your pet!

Introducing Pets to Guests

The holiday season often brings a flurry of visitors, and while many pets enjoy the extra attention, others may feel overwhelmed by the excitement and noise. Preparing your pet before guests arrive can make a world of difference. Offering a designated “safe zone” stocked with familiar bedding, toys, and water gives them a place to decompress whenever the festivities become too much. A brisk walk or a short play session before company arrives can also help take the edge off extra energy or nerves.

When guests come in, let your pet decide how and when to say hello. Slow introductions help reduce stress, and it's completely normal for pets—especially cats—to opt for quiet observation from a distance. Remind visitors and children to avoid crowding your pet, and encourage gentle, calm interactions. If your pet is anxious by nature, talk with your veterinarian ahead of time about calming aids or behavior strategies to help the day go smoothly.

Food safety is another key part of holiday hospitality. Politely ask guests not to share table scraps, as many holiday dishes contain ingredients harmful to pets. Giving your pet their own special chew, puzzle toy, or treat during busy moments can keep them happily distracted. With a bit of planning and clear boundaries, you can create a holiday environment where both your guests and your pets feel relaxed, respected, and comfortable.

Year Round Prevention

It's a common misconception that parasite prevention is not needed during the colder months—but heartworms, fleas, and ticks can still pose a threat year-round. Many parasites survive indoors or emerge during brief warm spells. Even a short lapse in prevention can put your pet at risk, as it only takes a single mosquito bite to transmit heartworm disease or one tick to spread illnesses like Lyme.

Consistent, year-round protection is the best way to keep your pets safe and healthy. We carry several options to fit your pet's needs and your lifestyle, including Interceptor Plus, Heartgard Plus, and ProHeart 12 for heartworm prevention; Credelio, Frontline, and Seresto Collars for flea and tick control. If an all-in-one product is more desirable - we carry Nexgard Plus and Nexgard Combo. Our team can help you choose the best product for your pet's size, habits, and environment, so you can enjoy peace of mind through every season.

New Year's Resolutions

As we ring in the New Year, our pets might have a few resolutions of their own! From “fewer snacks, more zoomies” to “no more barking at the mail carrier,” it's a great time to set fun, healthy goals together. Maybe your dog wants to learn a new trick, or your cat plans to spend less time napping and more time chasing feather toys. Whatever the goal, a new year means new opportunities to strengthen the bond you share with your furry family member, and maybe sneak in a few extra cuddles, too.

Indoor Cat Enrichment

When the weather turns cold and windows stay closed, indoor cats can get bored or restless.

Mental and physical enrichment are key to keeping them happy and healthy. Try rotating interactive toys, puzzle feeders, or treat-dispensing balls to keep their minds active.

Window perches or cat trees near natural light give them a place to watch the world go by, while short play sessions each day help them burn energy and stay fit. A little creativity goes a long way toward keeping your feline friend entertained all winter long!

Pet Gift Guide

Looking for the perfect present for your furry friend this holiday season? Safe, engaging toys are always a great choice—think durable chew toys for dogs, feather wands or interactive puzzles for cats, and enrichment items like lick mats or treat-dispensing balls. Cozy pet beds, warm sweaters, and snug winter gear make thoughtful gifts for chilly days. If your pet is food-motivated, consider high-quality treats or long-lasting chews that are both tasty and safe. Check out vohc.org for treats that are delicious and good for your pets oral health!

You can even personalize your gift-giving by choosing items based on your pet's unique personality—adventurous pets may enjoy outdoor gear, while snugglers appreciate blankets or heating pads made for pets. Rotating new toys throughout the winter can also help keep boredom away when outdoor time is limited. Whether it's a comfy new spot to nap or a fun toy that keeps them busy, there's a perfect gift out there for every pet on your list!