

# PAW PRINTS

## Pet Safety Tips for the Holidays!

PetMD



Keeping your furry family members safe during the holidays can be a difficult task. There are the breakable ornaments, potentially dangerous plants, presents with bows and ribbons, lights that can be chewed—and who could forget the Christmas tree? Let's take a look at some simple pet safety steps that will allow your furry family members to join in the holiday fun this year while avoiding any trips to the animal emergency room.

### **Christmas Tree Safety and Other Holiday Safety Tips:**

1. Place your Christmas tree in a corner. To keep your cat from attempting to jump onto the tree, you can place aluminum foil around the tree base to warn you of an impending tree disaster. Since cats and Christmas trees are not always the best combination, it may take some ingenuity on your part to keep both parties safe during the holiday season.

2. Tinsel can add a nice sparkling touch to the tree, but make sure you hang it up out of your pet's reach, or for the highest level of pet safety, simply don't use it. Ingesting tinsel can potentially block their intestines, which is generally only remedied through surgical means.

3. Do not put lights on the tree's lower branches. Not only can your pet get tangled up in the lights, but they can also cause burns on both cats and dog if they become entangled. Additionally, your dog or cat may inadvertently get shocked by biting through the wire.

4. Ornaments need to be kept out of reach, too. In addition to being a choking and intestinal blockage hazard, shards from broken ornaments may injure paws, mouths or other parts of your pet's body.

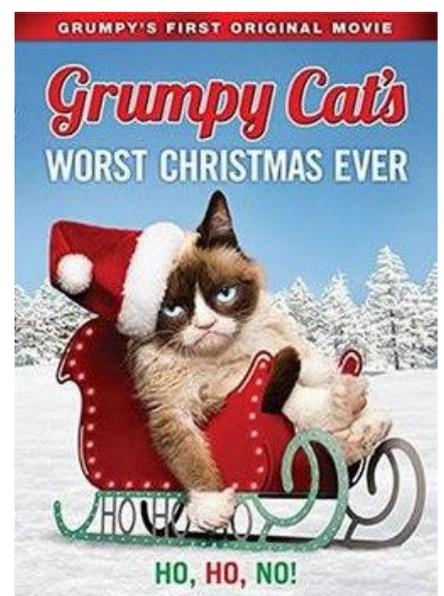
## HOLIDAY EDITION



**PET SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**  
**CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR PETS**  
**HOW TO HAVE AN ECO-FRIENDLY GREEN HOLIDAY!**  
**NAUGHTY & NICE, A "TAIL" OF 3 DOGS**  
**CAC CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS!**

**BAH HUMBUG**

**MOVIE OF THE MONTH!**



5. For those buying live Christmas trees this year, keep the area around the tree free and clear of pine needles. While they may not seem dangerous, the needles cause stomach upset and can irritate or puncture your pet's intestines if ingested.



6. Did you know that holly and mistletoe are poisonous to dogs and cats? If you normally use these plants to decorate your home, they should be kept in an area your pet cannot reach. Poinsettias are also not a great idea, as they can cause nausea and vomiting if ingested.

7. Edible tree decorations—whether they be ornaments or popcorn strings—are pet safety time bombs waiting to happen. These goodies are just too enticing, and your pet will surely tug at them, knocking down your wonderfully decorated spruce. Not to mention that they are also choking hazards.

8. Burning candles should be placed on high shelves or mantels, out of your pet's way—there's no telling where a wagging tail or curious cat may end up.

Never leave candles unsupervised, and keep your cat away from any areas with open flames or wax. Homes with fireplaces should use screens to avoid accidental burns.

9. To prevent any accidental electrocutions, exposed indoor or outdoor wires should be taped to the wall or the sides of the house. Any wires extending away from the wall should be wrapped in hard protective plastic to make them less interesting to your cat.

10. When gift wrapping, be sure to keep your pet away.

Wrapping paper, string, ribbon, plastic pieces or cloth could all cause intestinal blockages.

Scissors are another pet safety hazard, and they should be kept off floors or low tables. Be cautious about leaving wrapped gifts with ribbon and bows under the tree where your pets can get to them.

## Celebrate the Holidays with Your Pets!

Ann E. Slattery

**1.** Include Fluffy and Fido in your Christmas or Hanukkah card!

The most popular way to involve your pet in holiday traditions is to include them in your holiday greetings, especially the family Christmas photo.

**2.** Share seasonal food and goodies! 'Tis the season for a special treat! Find holiday-themed food for your fur-kids or better yet bake gingerbread dog treats or peppermint dog chews.

**3.** Go caroling together! Fa La La La La La La Woof! You'll be the talk and the hit of the neighborhood!

**4.** Decorate their homes! Follow Snoopy's lead! Wreaths, lights and seasonal décor make any home look festive, even your fur babies. Let them bask in the glow of the season too!

**5.** Dress them up! Santa hats and reindeer antlers are popular holiday pet attire. Frosty the Feline is always a hit! Be sure to capture the moment on camera!

**6.** Give them toys, gifts and your time! A new collar, a special toy, and edible treats are popular pet presents but nothing means more to them than snuggling with you!

**7.** Include them in your blessings. They are loyal friends from beginning to end and love us unconditionally. There is no greater gift than the gift of love. Be grateful for this special bond. Count your furry blessings!

**8.** Help your furry friend help others. Do you have a therapy dog? Visit hospitals and spread holiday cheer or volunteer at a local homeless shelter or salvation army kettle. You and your fur-pal are sure to make the holiday brighter and help fill the coffers!



Photo: pas294 / Reddit

# How to Have an Eco-Friendly Green Christmas Holiday!

TODAY'S HOMEOWNER W/ DANNY LIPFORD

Green is one of the traditional colors of the Christmas season, but the green we have in mind is the environmentally friendly kind. Here's a list of some eco-friendly, energy saving tips that will put you at the top of Santa's nice list this holiday season.

## 1. Use LED Lights

These small Light Emitting Diodes use 80% less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, plus they're cool to the touch. Look for the Energy Star seal for ones with the highest energy efficiency rating.

## 2. Limit Lighting

Turn Christmas trees on only when you're in the room to enjoy them. Turn outside decorations off before you go to bed at night, or put them on a timer that will remember to do it for you.

## 3. Send E-Cards

Replace snail mail cards and letters with e-cards and e-mails to save paper and mailing expense. It also will reduce your carbon footprint since it eliminates the fuel used for transporting standard mail. We're guilty of sending snail cards but we hope you reuse them as ornaments or gift tags next year! There are loads of ways to recycle Holiday cards.

## 4. Shop Online

Rather than burning gas driving around searching for that perfect Christmas present, shop online instead. Having your gifts shipped directly to out of town recipients saves even more energy by minimizing transportation costs.



## 5. Give Green Gifts

Consider giving eco-friendly or homemade gifts to those on your shopping list. Purchased green presents include:

- \* Energy saving items
- \* Books on green living
- \* Bicycles
- \* Mass transit passes
- \* Gift certificates to health food stores or organic restaurants

Homemade presents include:

- \* Baked goods and other food items
- \* Paintings and photographs
- \* Pottery and ceramics
- \* Sewing and knitting
- \* Handmade ornaments
- \* Woodworking projects

## 6. Eco-Friendly Gift Wrapping

Here are some ways to reduce the waste from gift wrapping. Buy gift wrap made from recycled materials.

- \* Make your own gift wrap from cloth and other materials.
- \* Save wrapping paper from gifts you receive to use next year.
- \* Reuse boxes for shipping and gifts, rather than buying new ones.
- \* Recycle wrapping paper and boxes rather than throwing them away.

## 7. Green Christmas Tree

Visit a local Christmas tree farm and cut down your own tree. Not only is it a fun family activity, but it eliminates the transportation required for shipped trees. Try to find an organic tree farm that is pesticide free to reduce the toxins in your home.

## 8. Make Natural Decorations

Rather than buying plastic ornaments, wreaths, and decorations shipped from overseas, make your own from pine cones, holly, seashells, river stones, and evergreen branches. Christmas tree lots often will give away branches they've trimmed off the bottom of trees.

## 9. Recycle Decorations

After the holidays, but sure to recycle your Christmas tree and other natural decorations rather than sending them to the landfill.

## 10. Reduce Travel

The holiday season often involves a lot of travel, which in turn adds more pollutants to the atmosphere. Every gallon of gasoline used by your car releases 19.4 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>, and air travel is equally bad. So if you really want to go green, consider limiting your travel plans this year.

# The Naughty & The Nice...a short "tail" of three dogs and their Saturday adventure. <sup>AES</sup>



Paco

It was a cold winters day just nine days before Christmas when little Miss Paco, an adorable, but mischievous little girl, decided to explore some new territory on the ol' homestead. Paco was rather thrilled with herself after discovering and promptly devouring an entire brick of rat poison. Yes, Paco was proud that she had found Santa's stash of yummy goodness. Fortunately for Paco, her guardian angel was watching out for her. Her human parents promptly rushed her to the nice folks at Cumberland Animal Clinic. Everyone ran to meet Paco, who was delighted with all the extra attention until she realized they were soon forcing her to vomit up her newly discovered prize. She thought to herself, "this isn't any fun at all. Bah Humbug!" Meanwhile, Paco's two siblings, Bandit & Jon Snow, who had been as good as gold all day and not gone in search of trouble, enjoyed lots of attention and were rewarded with real doggie treats as they patiently waited for Paco to return to the lobby. Paco was a very lucky little dog and thanks to her guardian angels she will live to see another Christmas, and we hope many many more. She has however, landed on the naughty list this year as per Santa. Bandit, Jon Snow, Paco's owners and the staff at CAC have all earned their spots on the nice list. Of course the list is always subject to change right up until Christmas morning! Be a good girl until then Paco!

The lessons of this story are many: Be sure to keep all rodenticides out of sight and inaccessible to all pets. It's a tall order for the especially curious among our fur-babies. Know what poisons you are using in the event it is consumed by accident; gather any and all residual material and seek immediate veterinary care as time is of the essence. Poison is poison, be it mouse or rat or dog or cat. It's a Wonderful Life, isn't it? Full of unexpected adventures and guardian angels.

**Merry Christmas to All & To All A Good Night!**



Bandit

Bandit



Jon Snow

Jon Snow

YESTERDAY I ATE MOUSE  
POISON AND ALMOST DIED.



UNFORTUNATELY I EAT  
ALMOST EVERYTHING  
WITHOUT HESITATION.



MY FAMILY RUSHED ME TO THE  
VET. IT WAS A SCARY RIDE.



THE WONDERFUL STAFF AT  
CUMBERLAND ANIMAL CLINIC  
SAVED MY LIFE. I'M VERY  
GRATEFUL TO STILL BE HERE.  
THANK YOU!



# Cumberland Animal Clinic Staff Holiday Party Pics!



CAC Elves



CAC Elves at Play!

