

## Winter Pet Resource Guide

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### HOLIDAY HAZARDS

Have safe and *purrfectly* wonderful holiday season with your furry family members by looking over the following list of Holiday Hazard tips sponsored by Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson [www.vscot.com](http://www.vscot.com) and the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center ([www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)).

**Live Christmas Trees:** Christmas Tree water may contain fertilizers that will upset your pet's stomachs. Stagnant tree water can also be a breeding ground that could, if ingested, lead to vomiting and diarrhea.

**Electrical Cords:** Avoid pets' exposure to electrical cords. Animals that chew on cords face the risk of electrocution. Cover up or hide extension and electrical cords.

**Ribbons or Tinsel:** Can become lodged in your pet's intestines and cause obstruction. (This is a common kitten and adult cat situation).

**Batteries:** Contain corrosives and if ingested, can cause ulceration of the mouth, tongue and gastrointestinal tract.

**Glass Ornaments:** Can cause internal laceration if ingested.

**Lilly Plants:** The lilies found in many holiday flower arrangements could be deadly to your cat. May types of lilies-such as Tiger, Asian, Japanese Show, Easter, Stargazer and Casa Blanca can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested.

**Poinsettias:** The toxicity of poinsettias is generally over inflated. If ingested, poinsettias can be irritating to the stomach and may cause vomiting.

**Mistletoe:** Has the potential to cause cardiovascular problems, but ingestion typically causes gastrointestinal upset.

**Holly:** Ingestion could cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy.

**Chocolate:** Keep your pet away from chocolate and candy dishes; don't let them in the kitchen unsupervised when you are baking.

**Antifreeze:** Has a pleasant taste, but small amounts can be lethal. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat; less than four teaspoons can be dangerous to a 10 pound dog. Thoroughly clean up spills and store antifreeze in tightly closed containers in secured cabinets. All automotive products should be stored in areas that are inaccessible to your pets. Prestone's Low Tox antifreeze coolant contains propylene glycol, a safer ingredient, and is recommended for households with pets. **If you think that your cat or dog has consumed antifreeze, seek emergency care at your family veterinarian's office or in Veterinary Specialty Center Of Tucson's emergency room, immediately.** To enhance rapid treatment, please remember to tell your veterinarian what brand of antifreeze your pet has ingested.

**Liquid Potpourris:** Are especially popular during the holiday season. Pets are often exposed to liquid potpourri by ingesting it from simmering pots or spills, by rubbing against leaky potpourri bottles or pots, or after spilling the containers on themselves. Exposure to some types of liquid potpourris can result in severe gum, skin and eye damage. **Please bring the original bottle of potpourri to your veterinarian's office or Veterinary Specialty Center Of Tucson's emergency room so they can diagnose and treat the problem quicker and with more accuracy.**

**Ice Melting Products:** Can be irritating to your pet's skin and mouth. Depending on the active ingredient in the ice-melting product and the quantity ingested. Clinical signs include; excessive drooling, depression and vomiting. Restrict your pet's access to areas where ice-melting products have been used. **Please remember to bring the original package of the ice-melting product to your veterinarian's office or Veterinary Specialty Center Of Tucson's emergency room so they can diagnose and treat the problem quicker and with more accuracy.**

**Rat or Mouse Bait or Traps:** Are used around the year, but are used more often in colder weather. When using rat or mouse bait (or traps), place the products in areas that are inaccessible to your furry family members. **If you think that your cat or dog has consumed rat or mouse bait (traps), seek emergency care at your family veterinarian's office or in Veterinary Specialty Center Of Tucson's emergency room, immediately.** To enhance rapid treatment, please remember to bring the original container or box.

**If your furry family member should get into any trouble over the holidays, VETERINARY SPECIALTY CENTER OF TUCSON's Emergency Room is here for you and your pet, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.**