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## Take care of your pet's health during the holiday season

Pet safety is especially important during the holidays, with so many potential hazards hidden within all the excitement.

Don't risk your cat's or dog's health—watch out for these dangers:

- Trees. Be sure your tree is solidly secured so Prince or Princess can't pull it over and get injured.
- Tinsel and ribbon. It's bright and attractive to pets—too attractive. Eating tinsel or ribbons could cause them to suffer an obstructed digestive track, leading to vomiting, dehydration, and possible surgery.
- Noisemakers. Horns, kazoos, and other fun instruments around the New Year can startle and upset pets. In their fear they can cause damage to your home and possibly injure themselves or a nearby human. Be sensitive to all noise and excitement that might panic an animal.
- Holiday plants. Traditional plants like holly and mistletoe can cause stomach and heart problems for pets. Go for lifelike artificial plants instead.
- Electrical cords. Animals chewing on cords can injure themselves and can increase the risk of a fire or electrical shock.
- The garbage can. Don't leave trash cans open. Take steps to ensure pets can't get into your garbage in search of tasty treats that might not be good for them.