
We would like to thank our clients for their continuing support over the last year and wish you all a very **Happy Christmas** and a Happy New Year!



The festive season is approaching and although we all enjoy this time of year we do have to think about our pets. There are many things around the home that can be dangerous to them. Hopefully this newsletter will help you to identify which things are particularly bad for your pets and ensure you can avoid them over the Christmas period.

[Chocolate](#)

This contains theobromine, which is toxic to cats and dogs. The darker the chocolate the more theobromine it contains. It can cause vomiting and diarrhoea and could cause dehydration. Animals may become hyperactive and develop hyperthermia.

[Grapes, Raisins and sultanas](#)

These can cause renal failure in dogs. Some dogs only have to eat a handful of raisins or just a few grapes to become ill. Vomiting and diarrhoea tend to be the initial signs noticed.

[Mistletoe](#)

Ingestion results in retching, vomiting and salivation. Occasionally weakness has been reported.

[Allium Species](#)

[\(Onions/shallots/leeks/garlic/chives\)](#)

Eating these items can cause gastrointestinal effects such as inappetence, vomiting, abdominal discomfort and diarrhoea. In some cases it can cause anaemia and jaundice. The onset can be as quick as 24 hours but in most cases can be after several days. So avoid giving the dog left over onion gravy from the Christmas dinner!

[Peanuts & Macadamia Nuts](#)

[\(Including monkey nuts\)](#)

These can cause gastrointestinal signs (vomiting and diarrhoea) in your pet. Some reported cases show signs of twitching, muscle spasms, hallucinations and occasionally convulsions. Don't forget chocolate coated peanuts and macadamia nuts are available = Double trouble.

[Poinsettia](#)

Like the lily flower this is very toxic to cats. Ingestion produces gastric irritation (vomiting and diarrhoea)

[Mouldy Foods](#)

[\(Mouldy walnuts, bread and cheese\)](#)

They can contain toxins that cause rapid onset convulsions with tremors, vomiting and rigidity.

[Holly and Ivy & Christmas Trees](#)

The major risk with these are ingestion. Which could result in obstruction from the "needles". Both Holly and Ivy usually result in drooling, retching and occasionally vomiting. Ivy, however, can cause muscle twitching, paralysis, convulsions and death in rabbits.

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