

## **Pet Health Tip of the Month**

### **Keep Your Holidays Happy and Healthy!**

While you're out getting gifts and decorations for the holiday season keep in mind some of these items can be harmful to your pet. Observing these few tips can keep your holidays joyful.

**Ribbon:** Placing a ribbon around Fluffy's neck may look adorable, however, it can be a choking hazard, or if swallowed, can cause internal problems. If a bow is a "must", make sure that it is loose enough that you can fit at least one finger under the ribbon and take it off as soon as possible.

**Holiday Plants:** Try to avoid bringing Christmas rose, Holly, Lilies, and Mistletoe into the house. These plants are toxic to both dogs and cats. Poinsettias can also be poisonous.

**Christmas Tree Water:** Many animals will crawl under the tree to get a drink, however, the stagnant tree water or water containing preservatives could result in stomach upset if ingested. A tree skirt is one simple way to hide temptation from curious little eyes.

**Ornaments:** Cats and dogs enjoy playing with ornaments but they can cause serious injury if they're broken or swallowed. Shatter resistant ornaments are a good substitution.

**Tinsel:** Tinsel may look nice on your tree, however, it can cause choking or internal trauma if swallowed. It's better to use garland in households with cats or puppies.

Please call us if you have any questions or concerns. We will be more than happy to help.  
Happy Holidays!

Staff at Golden Valley-Brookview Animal Hospital