

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

### **Holiday warnings:**

(For you and fluffy)

Watch what you are cooking. Your oven is not a fire proof box. Foods can and do set on fire.

Do not put anything flammable by an open flame. This includes things on your body (like long hair, or your cool wide dangly sleeves) and things on the counter (Potholders, Towels, Books, Papers etc.).

Beware of children, babies and animals. You want to keep them away from fire, hot things, sharp objects and electrical devices.

Pets are another special safety concern. Be careful with them and when you have guests be sure they are well prepped and know the rules of feeding your pets. Avoid giving your pet's people food and drinks. Xylitol and other artificial sweeteners in candies, chocolates and sodas are harmful on your pet's body, and can lead to Emergency Clinic visits when you would rather be spending time with your human family members and friends. Warn children (of all ages) about these risks and the threat it poses to your pet's health.

If all possible, minimize the amount of noise in the house. Presents like drums, guitars, and musical toys can frighten your pet if they don't expect it. If you live in a generally quiet house, try to keep it that way around the holidays and other busy times of the year.



### **"Toys" to avoid:**

Most animals will play with anything shiny and anything that makes any kind of noise. Cats especially will play with things that make crinkle noises. Different things to look out for, and keep away from your pet's reach are:

- Tinsel
- Glass ornaments
- Broken Glass ornaments
- Wrapping paper
- Bows
- Tape
- Paper or plastic shopping bags
- Gift bags
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Box cutters
- Staples

If you see any of these items on the floor, it would be highly advised that they be picked up and disposed of, kept on a high shelf, or kept in a secure locking and closing box.



### **Contact:**

Phone: 813-948-6534  
Fax: 813-949-5533  
1524 Land O' Lakes Blvd  
Lutz, FL 33549

### **Emergencies (8p-6a):**

Tampa Bay VES  
813-265-4043  
238 E Bearss Ave  
Tampa, FL 33613

### **A little explanation of popular foods:**

- Turkey bones – sharp edges on poultry bones can lacerate the lining of a dog's digestive tract
- Pigs in Blankets – fatty and salty meats such as pork can lead to a potentially life threatening condition pancreatitis
- Stuffing – the onions used in stuffing can weaken your pet's red blood cells causing long term damage to their health
- Nutmeg – this popular Christmas spice, often used in cranberry sauce and dessert dishes is potentially toxic for pets
- Chocolate – is extremely poisonous to dogs and vets have reported that in some cases smaller dogs have died from eating just a few bites.



### **Signs Your Pet Needs Attention Immediately:**

- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Unintended weight-loss/gain
- Change in appetite-decreased or increased
- Change in normal activity level:
  - Lethargy
  - Hyperactivity
  - Restlessness
- Limping
- Sudden inability to move back legs or collapse
- Crying when touched
- Clumsy/disoriented behavior
- Seizures
- Any loss of consciousness
- Coughing (especially at night)
- Any difficult or labored breathing
- Any blue, purple, or pale hue to the tongue or gums
- Excessive drooling
- Change in urination:
  - Location
  - Frequency
  - Amount
  - Color
  - Smell
- Straining in the litter box without producing urine
- Panting in a cat
- Bloated abdomen
- Sneezing excessively
- Uncontrolled bleeding from any orifice
- Bruising anywhere
- Any unusual odor or hair loss
- Runny nose, eyes, or squinting

### **Other foods to avoid feeding your pets:**

Avoid letting animals consume:

- Alcoholic Beverages
- Avocado
- Bones from fish, poultry, or other meat sources
- Chocolate
- Currants
- Coffee
- Citrus oils
- Fat trimmings
- Fish
- Grapes or raisins
- Hops
- Human vitamins containing Iron
- Macadamia nuts
- Milk and other dairy products
- Moldy foods
- Mushrooms
- Onions (raw or cooked)
- Persimmons
- Pits from fruit
- Raw eggs
- Raw meat
- Rhubarb leaves
- Salt
- String
- Sugary foods
- Table scraps
- Tobacco
- Yeast dough
- Xylitol



### **Announcements:**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> 2010:** Come have your pet's picture taken with Santa Claus at East-West Animal Hospital from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**Kitty City:** There is a tree in the lobby for Kitty City's Pet's. Come pick a pet to help out for the holiday season and enjoy a tax-deductible donation.

**East-West:** The office will be open Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm and on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm as well.