

Media release

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Ten ways to make a Happy Holiday for animals

1. Keep your pets safe and warm. If it's too cold outside for you, it's probably too cold to leave your pet outside. Also, holiday activity makes it easier for clever pets to sneak outside unnoticed. Make sure your pet has an ID tag with your phone number to bring her home if she gets lost.
2. Keep toxic seasonal plants like mistletoe, holly, Christmas cactus, poinsettia and pine trees, out of reach of dogs and cats. Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet munches on your holiday greenery.
3. Make a special treat jar with your pet's regular food, and a few treats, inside. This helps avoid guests or family members over-feeding your pet, or feeding dangerous foods like chocolate or cooked bones.
4. Help out your local animal shelter. Lost pets, cold weather and holiday activity mean more work for people, and more animals in need of supplies. Call to see how you can help.
5. Provide indoor fun for dogs as cold weather limits exercise. Try stuffing a Kong™ toy with wet dog food, yogurt, cottage cheese or peanut butter. Play hide-and-seek around the house. Use your imagination, and get the kids involved.
6. Keep tinsel and other string-like items away from your cat. Offer catnip-filled toys instead.
7. Remember to save some attention for your pets amidst all the holiday preparations of shopping, decorating, cooking and visiting.
8. Consider helping an elderly neighbor with pet care like scooping litterboxes or walking dogs.
9. Reduce your pets' stress and anxiety - remember to give your pets a break from the chaos and activity of a house filled with visitors.
10. Make holiday cookies for your dog! (see recipe below)

Healthy Holiday Dog Biscuits

- 2 ½ cups whole wheat self-rising flour
 - ½ cup skim dry milk powder
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 6 tablespoons margarine or butter
 - 1 egg
 - 1 tablespoon wheat germ
 - 1 cup cold water
1. Mix butter and egg together.
 2. Add remaining dry ingredients and mix well.
 3. Add enough water to be able to knead the mixture for 2–3 minutes.
 4. Roll out the dough on a floured surface to ¼ to ½ inch thickness.

5. Cut into shapes.
6. Bake at 350°C for 25–30 minutes.

Makes about 40 medium-sized biscuits.

For variety, try adding peanut butter, liver or other dog-safe flavors.

For more information, or other pet care tips, contact Lake Mills Veterinary Clinic at 920-648-2421, or visit our website: www.lakemillsvetclinic.com.

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