

Holiday Pet Safety Checklist



By Christine Urquhart

You can help keep pets safe during the holiday season by following the tips below:

Many holiday plants can lead to health problems in dogs and cats. Among the plants to keep out of reach are holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and lilies.

Snow globes often contain antifreeze, which is poisonous to pets.

Pine needles, when ingested, can puncture holes in a pet's intestine. So keep pet areas clear of pine needles.

The extra cords and plugs of holiday lights and other fixtures can look like chew toys to pets. Tape down or cover cords to help avoid shocks, burns, or other serious injuries. Unplug lights when you are not home.

Anchor Christmas trees to the ceiling with a string to keep it from falling on pets. (or your children, for that matter!)

Do not let pets drink the holiday tree water. Some may contain fertilizers, and stagnant tree water can harbor bacteria. Check labels for tree water preservatives and artificial snow, and buy only those that are nontoxic. Some folks use screens around trees to block access to electrical cords and gifts.

Very important: do not put

aspirin in the water (some folks do this thinking it will keep the tree or plant more vigorous). If a pet ingests the aspirin-laced water, his health or even life can be at risk.

Pets, particularly cats, can be tempted to eat tinsel, which can block the intestines. Hang tinsel high and securely to keep it out of reach of pets.

Keep other ornaments out of reach of pets. Ingestion of any ornament, which might look like toys to pets, can result in life-threatening emergencies. Even ornaments made from dried food can lead to ailments. And remember, shards from broken glass ornaments can injure paws, mouths and other parts of the body.

Put away toys after children open their gifts. Small plastic pieces and rubber balls are common causes of choking and intestinal blockage in dogs. Ingested plastic or cloth toys must often be removed

surgically.

Avoid toxic decorations. Bubbling lights contain fluid that can be inhaled or ingested, snow sprays and snow flock can cause reactions when inhaled, Styrofoam poses a choking hazard, tinsel can cause choking and intestinal obstruction, and water in snow scenes may contain toxic organisms such as Salmonella.

Do not let guests feed your pets human food. There are many holiday foods, including fatty meats, gravies, poultry skin, bones, chocolate and alcohol, that can cause illnesses from vomiting and diarrhea to highly serious pancreatitis and other toxic reactions. In addition, candy wrappers, aluminum foil pieces and ribbons can choke pets.

Keep pets away from gift packages as well as your gift wrapping area. Ingested string, plastic, cloth and even wrapping paper can lead to intestinal blockage and

require surgical removal. And pets have been severely injured by scissors and other items left on floors and tables.

Keep pets away from the garbage. Use pet-proof containers.



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Truro and Colchester Chamber Entering 127th year

By Andrew Lake

Entering the 127th year as an advocate for the business community, the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce continues to evolve to better serve its members and foster a positive business environment in the region. Member and stakeholder outreach continues to be a priority of the board. The engagement allows the chamber to learn the challenges facing business in the region, further providing a foundation to establish policies to guide the efforts and direction of the chamber.

At the 2016 AGM policy resolutions were adopted in a range of topics from Immigration, Infrastructure, Municipal Governance, and Youth Retention, to Economic Development, Tourism, and Information and Communication Technology.

Economic Development and Tourism garnered significant attention over the past eight months. On the economic development file, the Chamber worked collaboratively with the Municipality of Colchester, Towns of Truro and Stewiacke and the Millbrook First Nation to initiate a pilot project aimed at focusing on business development in the region. And on the Tourism file, the Chamber took the lead to bring municipal stakeholders, business community and boards of trades from Cumberland and Colchester together to fill the void in tourism marketing following the demise of Central Nova

Tourist Association.

The networking and educational opportunities presented by the chamber in 2016, were re-invigorated. A structured line-up of lunch and learns were offered, many aligned with policies and challenges identified during the member and stakeholder outreach sessions. In addition, many new networking and educational programs were offered in an effort to broaden the chamber reach. The TD Business Builders Series was launched in the fall of 2016, with a focus on providing free foundational learning opportunities to small and established businesses. As well, the suite of networking opportunities were advanced this year with the introduction of Business After 5, a Curling Bonspiel and Lobster/Steak Kitchen Party.

Looking ahead, the chamber will be guided by a Strategic Plan that focuses on maintaining relevance through effective and strategic marketing, while retaining the integrity of the chamber by advancing internal policies and strengthening board governance.

The chamber continues to be led by a dedicated group of volunteers, supported by a talented staff. The board and staff have a genuine appreciation for our community and are committed to ensuring its success through its support of business. The need for passionate individuals to continue the efforts of the chamber remains present. If you share similar

values and would like to support the organization's work by exploring board or committee participation, I welcome the opportunity to have casual discussion to share the value of the chamber in the community.

Andrew Lake, President, Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce

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2017 90 & 90+ BIRTHDAY PARTY

We wish to thank all those who attended the 2016 Annual 90 & 90+ Birthday party. We hope you had a good time.

While the party is fresh on our minds, I ask you to think about friends, relatives and neighbours from our coverage area, who will be turning 90 in 2017. Let's not wait until next year to get them registered.

Next year will be special as it's Canada's 150th birthday. If you know of someone who turns 90 next year, please pre-register them by sending Name, mailing address, phone and date of Birth.

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