

Angelic Dogs



Through your dog's eyes....

The festive season will soon be with us... are you ready?

Well the season of goodwill is nearly upon us and being the loving dog owners that I am sure you all are you will want to involve your dogs in as much as possible but the Queen song springs to mind here – ‘Too much love can kill you just the same as none at all’ – it is very important that your dog’s routine changes as little as possible over the festive period helping them to avoid getting over excited or nervous.

Before we actually get to the holiday season, we have the build up and some important things to remember!



Doggy Hazards.....

The Christmas Tree

When putting up decorations and a tree. Watch out for any trailing wires, lights and effects hanging off trees. These all look very interesting to dogs, of course if you have a real tree be especially careful with the pine needles, these can get stuck in their paws and can be dangerous if eaten. It is best to keep your dog away and to vacuum frequently and don't forget those waggy tails causing havoc around the tree, real or not. Wherever possible try and keep your dog away from the tree or place the tree where your dog cannot get to it directly, preventing your tree being horizontal rather than vertical.



Festive Plants



As well as the tree, seasonal plants such as holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and potpourri should be out of reach of your dog as they are poisonous.

Candles



Lit candles can also be a big hazard, make sure no lit candles are within reach of your dog or its tail.

Overindulgence

Come the big day it is too easy to overindulge for all of us and the same goes for our dogs, make sure you do not overfeed your dog especially with rich foods and things they have not had before. Also keep an eye on those visitors! Ask them not to feed your dog if necessary.

Especially avoid mince pies and Christmas pudding as the raisins and grapes can be poisonous to dogs. Avoid stuffing, as onions and garlic are also poisonous.





No matter how tempting it is **DO NOT** feed them anything cooked with bones in, as this can lead to intestinal obstructions and a christmas trip to the Vets.

Obviously chocolate is a definite no-no, theobromine in chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, epilepsy or even death.

Great for play.....not really



Wrapping paper and accessories look like great play toys to your dog. However they can prove dangerous and result in a visit to your Vets. Make sure it all gets thrown straight into the bin.

Also any presents you don't wish your dog to help themselves too should be kept out of their reach. Have you bought them their christmas present yet? There is some great stuff out there, do make sure whatever you treat them to is safe for them.

Time to party.....

If you are having a house full of guests plan ahead, make sure your dog has had plenty of exercise beforehand, and once they have said hello to everyone have a place set up where your dog can go and retreat for some peace and quiet.

If your dog is used to a peaceful existence it will be thankful of this place and can be settled down with a favourite chew or a stuffed kong.

If your dog is used to visitors you will still need to keep an eye on their behaviour, making sure they do not get too excited by all the fun and games and remember **NEVER** leave your dog alone with children.



Spooky Stuff



It is important to know your dog and understand what they can and cannot cope with, if they are likely to get over excited or frightened by unusual noises, children's toys, party bangers, video games, a slightly drunk auntie and uncle, put them somewhere they will feel more comfortable (the dog, not the auntie and uncle). If your dog has a noise phobia, even pulling Christmas crackers could spook them.

Its chilly out there.....



Along with Christmas comes the cold weather, unless you are reading this in the southern hemisphere, it is important to protect your dog from the cold.

Their bed should be away from draughts, in a warm quiet area.

With some breeds they may need a coat when out for a walk to protect against the cold, there are some great designs available out there!

Whilst out walking keep them away from cold or frozen water, no matter how deep or shallow it looks.

We wear shoes, you may want to think about boots for your dog too, their feet need to be protected from the salt used to melt ice, dog boots or rinsing their feet when they get home can help to protect their feet from this.

Dogs are attracted to the sweet smell of anti freeze – obviously it is as dangerous to them as it is to us, make sure it is never within reach of them.

***We wish you a great, fun packed, incident free
Christmas and a prosperous New Year.***

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