



The twelve hazards of Christmas...

Twelve chocolate buttons.....

We all know about the toxic effects of chocolate on dogs, please make sure that all chocolates are kept well out of reach of dogs and ideally in a locked cupboard. Also make sure that any gifts received from friends and family are not chocolate, or that no chocolates are being sent to you in the post.

Eleven mistletoe berries.....

Many of the plants that we associate with Christmas are toxic to dogs and cats. Cats spend more time indoors during the winter and therefore you may find them chewing on your house plants.

Ten turkey bones.....

Any type of bone cooked or raw is not recommended for dogs but especially poultry bones as they are likely to splinter when eaten potentially causing irritation and bleeding in the intestines.

Nine hyacinth bulbs.....

Dogs can be attracted to freshly planted bulbs, chewing and ingesting the bulbs can result in tissue irritation in the mouth and oesophagus.

Eight holly berries.....

Another festive plant which is toxic to dogs and cats.

Seven mincemeat pies.....

Mince pies are especially toxic to dogs as they have a high fat content which can lead to pancreatitis and more importantly they contain dried vine fruit (grapes, raisins, sultanas) which are extremely toxic.

Six garlic cloves.....

The 'allium' plant species is toxic to dogs and cats, these include onions, garlic, leeks, and spring onions. Sauces will often contain these ingredients, think carefully before putting human gravy with your dog's dinner as a treat.

Five stilton balls.....

There are reports of dogs becoming ill after eating blue cheese. Make sure all food waste is well out of the way of dogs noses.

Four frosty paws.....

Cold and frosty pavements can cause blistering and irritation on cats and dogs paws. Long haired pets can get snow clogging up the fur on their legs and in-between their pads.

Three shots of whiskey.....

Dog's kidneys have not been designed to filter alcohol, therefore even a small amount can leave them feeling very ill. A lot of modern alcoholic drinks contain high quantity of sugar and are attractive to dogs.

Two Christmas crackers.....

Christmas crackers and the pop of champagne bottles can be very scary for noise phobic dogs. If your dog has issues with thunder storms and fireworks then take them outside and distract them with a treat or game while someone else pulls your cracker.

.....and the lights on a Christmas tree.....

All pets, dogs, cats and rabbits have been known to chew electrical wiring. Not only will it spoil your Christmas if your tree isn't lit up, your pet could experience nasty electrical burns in their mouth, meaning they wouldn't be able to enjoy their specially prepared, toxic free Christmas dinner.

If you are at all worried about your pet over the Christmas period, please contact us immediately – it's better to be safe than sorry. If something happens during out of hours, then you can contact VetsNow who we work with, and are based out of Lynwood Vets in Wimborne on 01202 237 5954.