



5 Holiday Hazards You Can't Ignore

Written by Daisy McKee, RVT

1. Holiday Feasts

Many foods that are oh so yummy for us can cause major tummy upset in our furry friends. Foods that can cause diarrhea, vomiting and maybe surgery or a hospital stay are:

- Turkey - bones can puncture or get stuck
- Fatty foods - pancreatitis
- Onions/Garlic - toxic
- Grapes - toxic

2. Decorations

Many pets, with the stress of the holidays, may act in unfavorable ways. Many of their victims include the bows, ribbons, figurines, and other decorations that we display during the holidays. When ingested, holiday décor can be a choking hazard or get stuck in their gastrointestinal system causing a hospital visit and maybe even surgery.

3. Trees/Plants

Take care with floral arrangements and plants especially if you have a cat. Christmas trees and other plants can be toxic to our pets, beware that simply having a poisonous plant in your house may be enough to cause .

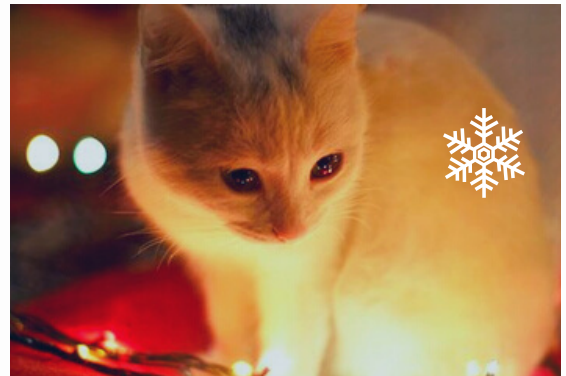
- Lilies
- Pine needles
- Poinsettias

4. Electrical cords

Twinkling, shiny and dangling holiday lights may be another source of danger to your curious pets. Got a pet that likes to chew? Electrical shock may occur when a pet chomps down on an electrical cord, causing tongue lacerations and possible death. Check your holiday lights for signs of fraying or chewing and use a grounded three-prong extension cord as a safety precaution.

5. Stranger Danger

Having visitors in your house can be very stressful for even the calmest of pets. If your pet is showing signs of stress including, unusual behaviour, changes in behaviour, inappropriate elimination (bathroom accidents) hiding, or aggression, it may be a good idea to enclose an area or room that your pet can seek solitude.



Calving Season Preparation



Written by Dr. Grayson Ross, DVM

Due to COVID-19, these past couple of years have been very eventful to say the least. With restrictions put in place and many aspects of our lives put on hold, the pandemic has put our lives into great uncertainty. Fortunately, there is something that we can rely on happening, that many of us look forward to annually... *calving season!* With this article, I hope to outline some basics of calving, things to watch for, and when to call the vet if needed.

Signs of an impending calving:

Mammary development - for most species, the mammary glands begin to enlarge approximately half way through the last trimester. With cattle, mammary enlargement (bagging up) is most noticeable in the last 2 weeks of gestation. However, this varies from cow to cow and can happen as quick as 24 hours prior to calving.

Vulvar changes - in cows and heifers, the vulva usually becomes very prominent and swollen in the 2 weeks prior to calving. This is referred to as "springing".

Vulvar discharge - mucous-like discharge coming from the vulva is another sign that an animal is close to calving.

Isolation - as they get close to calving, cows and heifers may try to isolate themselves from the rest of the herd to find a more private/secluded place.

When a cow or heifer goes into labour, the birthing process can be broken down into 3 stages:

Stage I - cervical dilation and relaxation of the birth canal so that the animal can expel the fetus. Stage I is also where uterine contractions begin. These contractions cause abdominal discomfort which may cause the animal to lay down and get up repeatedly. Stage I usually lasts *around* 6 hours for cattle.

Stage II - expulsion of the calf. This stage begins with the first appearance of the fetal membranes or a release of fluid. Normally, cattle will complete delivery within 2 hours. The first layer of fetal membranes to make an appearance is usually a sac called the allantois which is also known as the "water bag". The second sac is the amnion which has a white glistening appearance in which the calf's feet and head may show through. Stage II normally lasts approximately 1 hour in cattle.

Stage III - expulsion of the placenta or "cleaning". After a cow has her calf, she may appear to have overtly quit straining. However, strong uterine contractions within her continue for a few hours. The placenta is usually expelled within 6 hours in cattle.



Rules for Calving When to Intervene and/or Call your Veterinarian

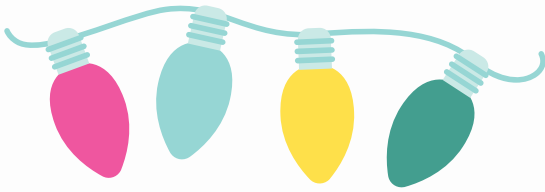
- Signs of Stage I have been present for close to or greater than 6 hours without progress.
- More than 60-90 minutes since beginning Stage II without part of a calf showing.
- More than 2 hours since the beginning of Stage II without complete delivery of a calf.
- Straining for 30-45 minutes after appearance of a foot without further progress.

Please keep in mind that these are recommendations and certain issues may arise in individual cases that could alter the course of action and outcome.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact your veterinarian.

Best of luck this calving season!





All I want for Christmas is Peace of Mind...

Petsecure Pet Insurance

Many activities during the holiday season include your pet, and it is important to keep them safe.

Here are *six reasons* why this year you should give yourself the gift of pet insurance:

1. Protection against unforeseen accidents and illness.
2. There is coverage for holiday-related accidents such as: *ingestion of decorations, candles/fires, chocolate toxicity, and more.*
3. Our trials and paid policies allow pet owners to discuss treatment options with confidence and less worries about finances.
4. Our multiple plan options allow for more affordability to pick a policy and stay on it.
5. Our paid policies offer capped routine dental coverage after a six-month waiting period.
6. Pet insurance benefits pets and their owners... giving you peace of mind over the holidays.

Have Dr. Liz or Dr. Ross examine your pet to activate your free trial to help get you started!

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SIX REASONS TO GET PET INSURANCE



Many activities during the holiday season include your pet, and it is important to keep them safe. Here are six reasons why this year you should get pet insurance:

- 1 PROTECTION**
If your pet suffers from an unexpected accident or illness, Petsecure can help reduce your vet bill up to 80%.
- 2 SAFETY**
During the holidays, hazardous items like tinsel or candles can go unnoticed. Our insurance plans cover related accidents – and we'll let you know what to look out for.
- 3 CONFIDENCE**
Member benefits included in every Petsecure plan will give you the confidence to make informed decisions about your pet's medical care.
- 4 REGULAR COVERAGE**
Petsecure has multiple plan options that fit anyone's budget to ensure all pets live happy, healthy lives.
- 5 EXTRA COVERAGE**
Dental coverage can be expensive and becomes necessary for most pets during their lifetime. Petsecure offers annual capped coverage for routine dental care.
- 6 PEACE OF MIND**
Pet insurance benefits pets and their owners! Give yourself a gift this holiday season – peace of mind!

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