

*** Miss print in paragraph 3; should read you can purchase some flags at Home Depot. Place them around the tree.

DOG LIFE



Don't forget your pet during the holidays

BY HARRY KALAJIAN

During the holiday season we must be very diligent with our pets. We put so much thought into the parties and gatherings that we forget that our pets are most vulnerable during this time. Christmas trees, plants and food can all pose a danger to your pet, and you must always play the devil's advocate to prevent a holiday disaster.

Ornaments of all shapes and sizes can be so attracting to Fido that he might decide to grab one to play with it, and it could eventually end up being swallowed. If that happens, get to your vet's office immediately. All parts of ornaments are dangerous – especially the metal ornament holders, which can lodge in Fido's throat or stomach.

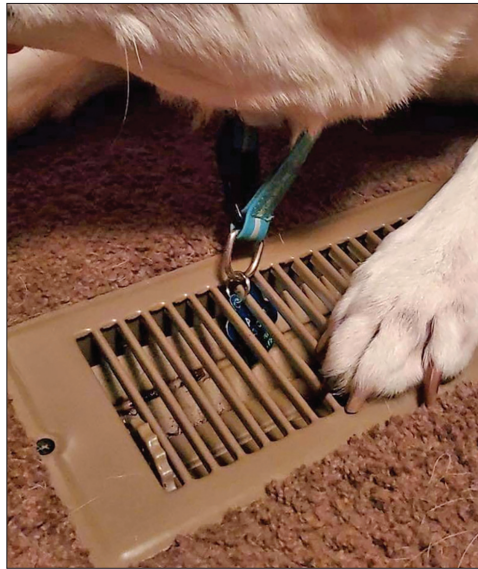
Many plants are also poisonous, so if you have decorative plants around, make sure they are inaccessible to your pet. If you have an E-Collar for your dog (you can pick one up at a pet shop or Home Depot), set up a few flags around the tree. Then correct your dog with a level of stimulation or vibration to discourage it from going near the tree. The flags will serve as markers warning it not to get close to the tree.

Putting a barrier around the tree is a good idea in any case, because a dog might otherwise just decide to urinate on your tree – something that it will do naturally when outside. This would not only make a mess but might also activate further indoor peeing.

Place your ornaments high enough up to be out of reach of your dog, and be sure they won't shatter

if the tree accidentally gets shaken. Keep in mind that most dogs have sharp hearing, and some may go after the lights, because the wires, bulbs and timers make a noise that we can't hear but they can.

Certain holiday foods can be shared with your pet, but only in very small amounts. Always use common sense: no bones of any kind, no cakes or pastries or chocolate, and under no condition offer the goodies from the table. Always offer them in



Fido's bowl after you have finished yourself and you're no longer at the table.

Many owners like to dress up their dogs for the holiday season with bandanas or other outfits. If you do so, be careful that anything you dress your dog in does not restrict movement or have hooks or projections that can get caught on anything. Sometimes we don't realize that the smallest additions can be a health hazard. Here is a small example: If your dog is wearing a collar with tags, make sure you have no floor vents in which it can get stuck. Take all sorts of precautions on any level for the safety of your dog.

In the event your dog swallows something, and depending on what it is, you can induce it to vomit by giving it a teaspoon of hydrogen peroxide, or you can cause it to pass the item through its poop by giving it a piece of bread with Vaseline spread on it.

Always remember: Patience, persistence, consistency and repetition will be your key to Success. "Failure is not an option" if you are willing to put in the time and effort.

Happy holidays, and have a woof woof of a month.

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