

## CHRISTMAS AND WINTER SAFETY by Chaplain Jill Marie Chambers, C4C Canine Program Facilitator (Part One)

Christmas is my favorite time of year. But the holidays can have some hazardous elements for our beloved dogs, or other pets. Holiday feasts (such as is common for Thanksgiving and Christmas) can have many foods that are good for our dogs, but many can be dangerous for our dogs too. Some care should be exercised.

The obvious is watch out for small bones in turkeys and chickens. But also watch out for whole cloves in hams (ham is also high in salt so should NOT be given to pets). Fat and skin from turkey or chicken is also a bad idea. A single feeding of fat can cause pancreatitis in dogs, so if you want to give your dog a taste of turkey or chicken, avoid feeding them the fat or skin. Most vegetables are safe but avoid any that are covered in sauces and never give onions. Here is a list of fruits and vegetables that you can and cannot give your dog <https://www.akc.org/.../fruits-vegetables-dogs-can-and-.../>. I would also be careful with sugary desserts and keep that chocolate out of reach!