



A Guide to The Holidays With Your Pet

Get into the holiday spirit with pet-safe holiday recipes,
gift ideas, safety tips, and more!



Gift Ideas for Your Dog or Cat

The holidays are a nice excuse to spoil your pet a little more than usual, right? Here's some fun gift ideas for your favorite pets.

Gifts for Dogs

- Soft dog bed
- Personalized collar
- Stuffed or plush toy
- Rope tug, or rubber chew toy
- Interactive treat toy or puzzle
- Tennis balls, or a frisbee
- Cute sweater, or bandana
- Dog subscription box
- Pair of booties
- Dog treats – store-bought or homemade

Gifts for Cats

- Cozy cat bed
- Cat house (or even a cardboard box)
- Cat tunnel, or exercise wheel
- Self-cleaning litter box
- Wand toy or mice toys
- Cat tree, or scratching post
- Window perch
- Cat subscription box
- Laser pointer
- Cat treats – store-bought or homemade



Keeping Your Pet Happy & Safe

Taking a few preventive measures before, and during the holidays can help to ensure a stress-free holiday season for you and your pet.

Decorate Safely

- Keep decorations like mistletoe, holly, and garlands out of reach.
- Secure your Christmas tree with a sturdy base to minimize the risk of it falling over, and add a gate to prevent pets from chewing on tinsel or ornaments.
- Keep your pet away from cords by blocking access to them, or covering the cords with PVC piping to protect them from your pet's inquisitive teeth.

Watch What They Eat

- Feeding your pet high-fat table scraps (like turkey/ham drippings, or side dishes with butter) can put your pet at risk for pancreatitis.
- Any foods that contain garlic, chives, or onions can potentially harm your pet causing anemia in some cases.
- Xylitol, a popular sugar substitute, is toxic to dogs, so hide the chocolates and sweets.

Manage Their Fears

- For many pets, the holidays can cause fear and anxiety with the new faces entering their home for parties and get-togethers. You can help your pets by providing them a safe space to retreat to that is away from the noise and activity.



Holiday Travel with Your Pet

The holiday season is a popular time for travel (pets included). If you're thinking about bringing your dog or cat on your next trip, here's some helpful travel tips to make the experience easier.

Allow Extra Time When Traveling

Make sure to schedule extra time for travel, as your dog will need regular breaks to relieve themselves and stretch their legs. Cats don't need these pit stops as long as you bring along a litter box for the car.

Pack for Your Pet

You'll want to stock up on waste bags for your dog's outdoor breaks. Have plenty of water bowls and water on hand, and pack extra of your pet's food. Don't forget their medications and supplements.

Try to Keep a Regular Routine

Whether during a long road trip or at a relative's home, your dog will appreciate eating their meals and taking their usual walk at the same time. Cats are creatures of habit too, so keeping their routine as normal as possible is important for limiting their stress.

Update Your Pet's ID Tags and Microchip

The last thing you want is for your pet to get lost while on holiday. But in case they do, having a collar with up-to-date contact info, and making sure their microchip is registered/updated will increase your chances of a fast reunion.

Don't Forget Their Papers

If you're crossing state lines or traveling internationally, your pet may need a signed health certificate from your veterinarian. You'll want to talk to your vet well in advance (at least 2 weeks) for their certificate.



Christmas Cookie Recipe for Dogs

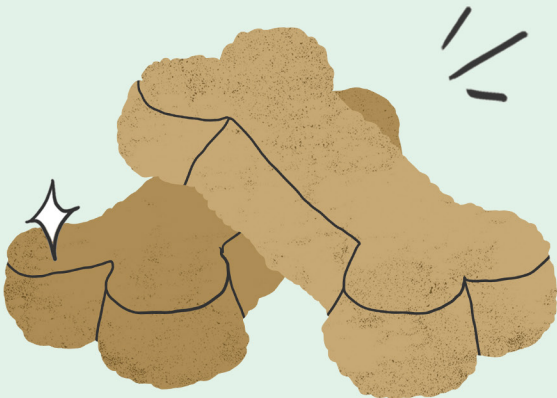
Traditional Christmas cookies may contain ingredients that are potentially toxic for dogs, such as chocolate, sugar, spices, and certain nuts. Unleash the joy of the holiday season with these festive treats.

Ingredients

- 1 cup frozen cranberries
- ½ cup plain applesauce
- ¼ cup dried cranberries
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
(you can substitute any flour)
- 2 cups rolled oats
- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp melted coconut oil

Instructions

- 1 Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2 Microwave the applesauce and frozen cranberries together until thawed. This will give your cookies a light red coloring.
- 3 Pulse the fruit mixture and dried cranberries in the food processor until combined.
- 4 Pulse in the rolled oats and flour, then add the eggs and coconut oil until a dough forms.
- 5 Work the dough on a floured board, adding more flour as necessary.
- 6 Roll out dough to about ¼ of an inch thick and cut into festive shapes using cookie cutters or a small knife.
- 7 Bake for 20 minutes and let cool completely before serving.



Catnip Treat Recipe

Catnip is one of the few plants that are safe for cats to eat. Whip up these tasty treats for a special occasion (like the holidays).

Ingredients

- ½ cup whole wheat flour
- ½ cup non-fat dry milk powder
- ½ can tuna in oil
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 egg beaten
- ¼ cup water
- ¼ cup finely crushed dry catnip

Instructions

- 1 Preheat oven to 350°F and spray cookie sheet with cooking spray.
- 2 In a large bowl, mash the tuna and break up any large clumps.
- 3 Mix the flour and dry milk powder in with the tuna until thoroughly combined.
- 4 Add water and oil and mix well.
- 5 Beat an egg until foamy then add to the mixture. Expect the dough to be sticky.
- 6 Shape dough into tiny ¼ teaspoon sized balls & roll them in finely crushed dry catnip.
- 7 Place them on the sheet and flatten slightly.
- 8 Bake for 10 minutes, remove from the oven and let rest for 5 minutes. Turn treats over and bake for an additional 10 minutes.
- 9 Bake for 20 minutes and let cool completely before serving.

