



# Happy Howlidays

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Best behavior starts here™

## HOLIDAY TIPS

### DECORATIONS

- Take care decorating your home as pets can be drawn to the shiny objects
- Blinking tree lights, singing angels and a dancing Santa may be too much for your pet
- Take care with cords so your pets can't chew on them, trip or get tangled up
- Pine cones and pine needles can cause intestinal blockages or even perforate an animal's intestine
- Flowers commonly used to decorate can be toxic

### FOOD AND CANDY

- There are hidden dangers in food scraps that can cause pancreatitis. Pets can also choke on bones
- Many ingredients are poisonous to pets including onions, garlic, raisins and grapes
- No candy – especially chocolate for dogs
- Products containing yeast can cause painful gas and bloating

### COSTUMES

- Not all pets love dressing up – don't force it
- Make sure the costume fits – not too big and not too small
- When you go out for an extended period of time, leave the TV or radio on



## HOSTING TIPS

### BEFORE COMPANY ARRIVES

- Make visitors with allergies or immune system issues aware of pets in the house
- Plug in a pheromones diffuser, Feliway® for cats and Adaptil® for dogs, at least 3 days before company arrives
- Complete a refresher obedience course

### WHEN COMPANY ARRIVES

- Take steps to prevent your pet's escape when visitors come to the front door and make sure identification information is up to date
- Create a safe haven away from the commotion. Fill the area with favorite toys, comfortable bedding and necessities like water or a litter box. Put on classical music to help drown out the background noise



## TRAVEL TIPS

- If you're crossing state lines or international borders, determine if your pet needs a health certificate from your veterinarian
- Spray a blanket or wipe down the carrier with pheromones, Feliway® for cats or Adaptil® for dogs
- If your pet is traveling in the cargo hold, mark your crate well with your contact information

### TRAVEL BY CAR

- Make sure your pet is secure either by a harness or in a carrier
- Take plenty of toys, snacks and water. Make regular stops so your pet can stretch their legs and have a potty break

### TRAVEL BY PLANE, RAIL OR BUS

- Ask about the rules for traveling with a pet
- Take care to make your pet comfortable with their carrier prior to travel and ensure they spend time in their crate prior to departure

### WHEN TO BOARD YOUR PET

- If your pet needs a consistent routine or treatments because of illness, injury, age or temperament
- If you have traveled with your pet in the past and they exhibited extreme signs of fear
- If you are flying and have a short-nosed breed, be wary.
- If you are concerned about the amount of time that your pet would be traveling during the holidays

### STAYING AT A HOTEL OR RELATIVE'S HOME

- Leave the pet alone in the room for only small amounts of time. Consider leaving the pet in a crate or cat carrier to reduce the chance of destructive behavior

- When leaving your pet alone in the room, inform the front desk that your pet is in there and hang the "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door
- Make sure the hotel or your family/friends have your contact information in case an issue arises



## TIPS FOR COPING WITH A STRESSED PET



- Use pheromones, Feliway® for cats or Adaptil® for dogs, to create a sense of calm and safety in the home with a diffuser, spray or wipes
- Create a safe haven in a quiet space away from the activity
- Put on some calming music
- Designate a family member to be near the pet to offer

comfort, support or a much needed distraction

- If your pet has been extremely fearful in the past, contact your veterinarian for additional tips on how to maintain a calm environment
- For extreme cases, pharmaceuticals may be necessary

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

- Before you leave home, research the veterinarians and 24 hour Emergency Hospitals close by
- Take a list of your pet's medical records and medications
- If your pet ingests anything harmful, contact your local emergency clinic or call a pet poison hotline