



# Countryside Mews



## *Holiday Health*

**Christmas 2012**

### **Leave the Leftovers**

Spicy, fatty human food as well as bones, should not be fed to your animals. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills.

### **Wired Up**

Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth.

### **No Feasting for Fido (or Fluffy)**

By now you know not to feed your pets chocolate, raisins and anything sweetened with xylitol, but do you know the lengths to which an enterprising pet will go to chomp on something yummy? Make sure to keep yours away from the table and unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.

### **No Tinsel**

Kitties love this sparkly, light-catching "toy" that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery. It's best to brighten your boughs with something other than tinsel

### **Careful with Cocktails**

If your celebration includes adult holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.

### **Forget the Mistletoe & Holly**

Holly, when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many varieties of lilies can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. Opt for just-as-jolly artificial plants made from silk or plastic, or choose a pet-safe bouquet.

*Providing Care from the Heart*



## More Happy Holiday Tips for your Pets



### **Oh Christmas Tree**

Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea should he or she drink it.

### **That Holiday Glow**

Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Be sure to use appropriate candle holders, placed on a stable surface. And if you leave the room, put the candle out!

### **A Room of Their Own**

Give your pet his own quiet space to retreat to—complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the holiday festivities.

### **Toy Joy**

Looking to stuff your pet's stockings? Choose gifts that are safe.

- Dogs have been known to tear their toys apart and swallow the pieces, which can then become lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines. Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible, Kongs that can be stuffed with healthy foods or chew treats that are designed to be safely digestible.
- Long, stringy things are a feline's dream, but the most risky toys for cats involve ribbon, yarn and loose little parts that can get stuck in the intestines, often necessitating surgery. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy or the interactive cat dancer—and tons of play sessions together.

### **New Year's Noise**

As you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines, if ingested, perhaps necessitating surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears.



# Animals at Christmas



I must stop Christmas from coming...



...but how?

128MAYM4E143KXB.COM



I used to love you.



## CHRISTMAS TIME

When you have to see your relatives, no matter how much you dont want to

1GRNHR5SCHER2BURGER.COM

The lesser known reindeer.



Angry.

*Countryside's Holiday Hours*

*We will be closed:*

*December 24<sup>th</sup>*

*December 25<sup>th</sup>*

*January 1<sup>st</sup>*

*For emergencies and immediate care please call  
Central Animal Hospital at 250-475-2495.*

**This holiday season we have  
the purrfect gift for that  
certain someone who has  
everything and loves their  
pets.....Gift Certificates!  
Available now for purchase  
at Countryside Pet Hospital.**

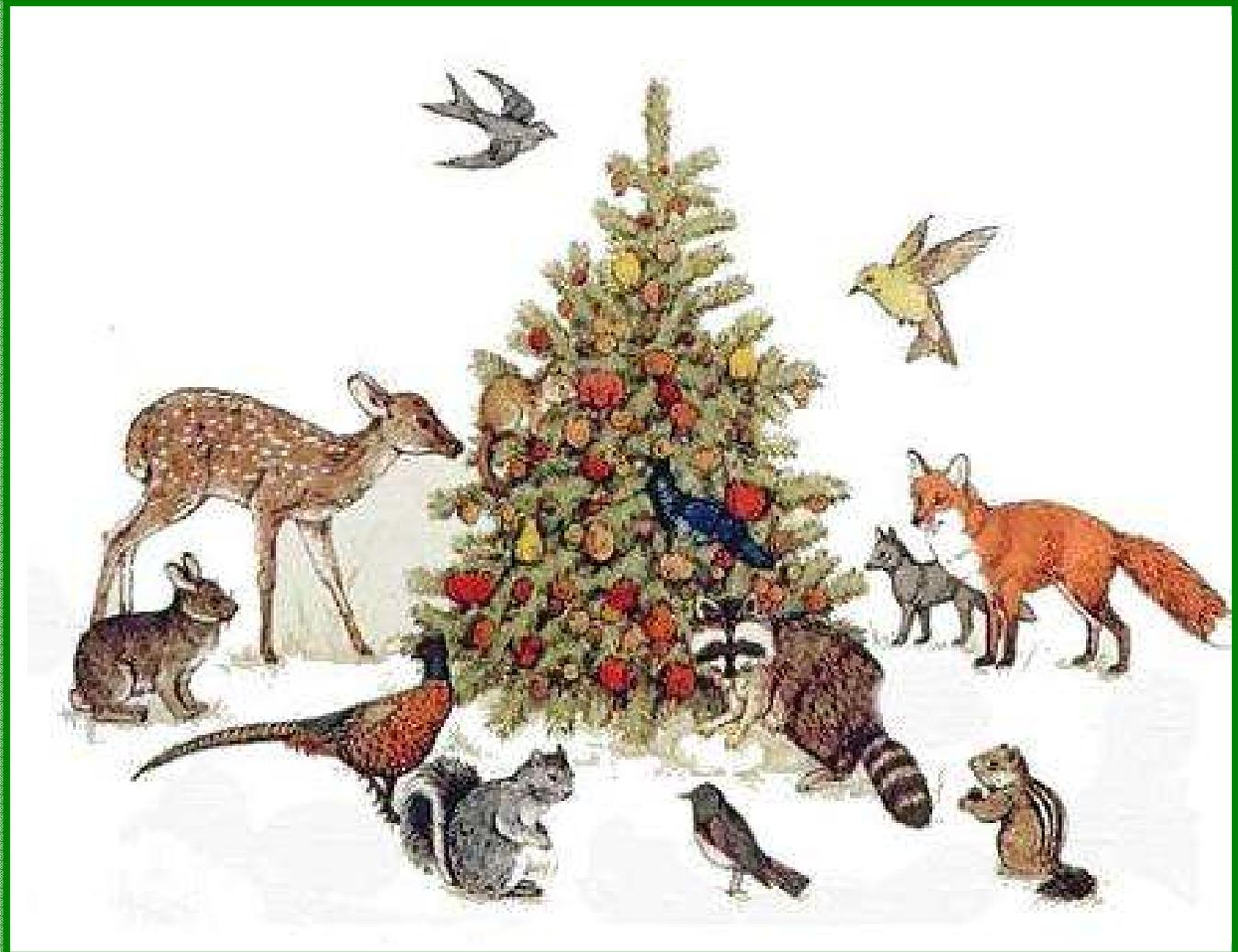
**Merry Christmas to all**



**and to all a good night.**

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*Merry Christmas to you and all of your animals*



*From Dr. Braaten, Kim & Danni*