

Preparing Pets For Christmas

Christmas is a time for the family to celebrate and that includes our Pets. As Christmas approaches, early December is the time to begin thinking about what you are going to need over the festive period. Turkey, sprouts, crackers and presents for everyone including the husband's traditional new pair of socks. But now is also the time to begin thinking about your pets and their needs at Christmas. The festive period is a time for celebration, and with careful planning Christmas can become one to be remembered for the right reasons.

You only have to chat with your vet over a glass of mulled wine to learn about the variety of foreign bodies that have been retrieved from intestines of the over inquisitive pets. Assessing the potential dangers around the home will not only save your pet an untimely visit to the vets, but also may save you a few pounds for that extra Christmas present to yourself. Prizes inside crackers, baubles, ribbon, batteries, turkey bones and small children's toys are all common Christmas items that can cause your pet harm if ingested. It is well worth taking a few moments to assess the potential risks of your own yuletide home.

Christmas is also a time for giving and presents for the pets are no exception. Traditionally food orientated gifts are the most popular type of gift for pets, closely followed by toys. Ensure the toys your pet receives from friends and family are suitable and safe. Pet Christmas stockings provide great value and variety but beware of the potentially dangerous squeaky toys, with those pets that could demolish a toy quicker than a shoal of Piranha. The novelty of all those rich treats can easily upset the sensitive stomachs of some pets, so caution is the key word here. It maybe sensible to give thought to provide alternative gifts such as new bedding, a new lead or even Pet insurance cover for the New Year.

Whether you have a cat or dog the look of amusement on the face of your pet as they see the overnight appearance of a tree in their living room, is something to behold. Both species use trees in different ways and it needs no further explanation on how dogs utilise these facilities. However cats are a prey species which means when threatened they immediately adopt an escape strategy, and for cats this usually means climbing the nearest object and trees are no exception. Therefore with all the noise, commotion, sudden snapping of crackers and whizzing or whirring of children's toys, which your cat finds unfamiliar, can cause your pet to escape this threatening environment using the carefully decorated tree as an escape route. Therefore keeping your pet in a safe, quiet room during the big day or whilst all the family are visiting will prevent any potential Christmas tree catastrophe. With

careful planning and organization this year's festive period can be a safe, happy and enjoyable for all the members of your family.

