



# Topanga WOOF News

Issue No. 3

Topanga Pet Resort  
*A Country Camp for Dogs!*

Nov/Dec 2007

**We wish all our valued client's a VERY HAPPY and SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!**



Holiday Hours: We will be closed for pickup or drop off on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday Nov. 22nd), Christmas Day (Tuesday Dec. 25th) and New Year's Day (Tuesday Jan. 1st.)

We hope you have already made your reservations for your pet this holiday season. If not, call our office for availability as space is limited during these busy times.

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### Holiday Safety Tips

We want the holidays to be a happy time for you and your pet, not a time for an emergency visit to your veterinarian. The food and decorations that make the holidays so much fun for us can be dangerous for your pet. We do not want this article to dampen your holiday spirits, but we do want you to be aware of the dangers and plan carefully to avoid these potential hazards.

#### Food

Holiday foods we enjoy cooking and eating can be a problem for your pet.

- Rich, fatty foods, like gravy or grease
- Alcohol can cause serious intoxications in pets, and many dogs are attracted to it. Every year hundreds of dogs die after a single bout of alcohol consumption.
- Chocolate, coffee, and tea all contain dangerous components
- Bones from fish, meat, or poultry can also cause problems if swallowed. Even small bones can splinter causing lacerations throughout the intestinal tract.
- Tobacco products can be fatal to pets.
- Uncooked yeast dough can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines.
- Grapes, raisins & Macadamia Nuts all contain dangerous toxins.
- Remember, dogs have an exceptional sense of smell - juices on plastic or aluminum foil left on countertops are very tempting. If ingested, plastic or foil wrap (cellophane candy wrappers or food wrap) can cause choking or intestinal obstruction.
- Feed your pet(s) before a party so they will not be so apt to beg or steal food.



### Poisonous Plants

We all like making our homes more festive for the holidays. We enjoy the green foliage and colorful flowers of plants. Unfortunately, many of the plants we have in our homes during the holidays can be poisonous to pets. If ingested, holly (leaves and berries) causes stomach upset and can be potentially fatal to both dogs and cats. Mistletoe upsets stomachs and can cause heart collapse, while hibiscus may cause diarrhea. Poinsettias have an irritating sap that can cause blistering in the mouth and stomach upset. So when you brighten up your home, place these plants well out of your dog's reach, or use imitation holiday plants.

### Decorations and Wrappings

All that glitters is not gold - it could be dangerous for your pet. Ribbons, yarn, string, adhesives, glue, potpourri, candles are just a few things that your pet may get into that are hazardous.

### Christmas Trees

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how careful we must be. Christmas trees and their decorations can create hazards for pets.

- Tree needles can be toxic and cause mouth and stomach irritation. Even needles and the wire of artificial trees could pose a problem. Be sure your dog is not chewing on branches or eating fallen needles.
- Tinsel's shininess is attractive. When eaten, it can cause blockages, which often require surgery to remove. Leave it off the tree altogether.
- Angel hair, flocking, and artificial snow are mildly toxic. If consumed in larger amounts, however, they could cause blockage of the intestine. Try decorating with something less likely to cause a problem.
- Chewing on electrical cords, including cords of lights can cause problems ranging from burned mouths to electrical shock.
- Decorating trees with food is asking for problems. Candy canes and gingerbread people can be as enticing to your dog.
- Because tree preservatives are often sugar-based (and inviting to dogs) and because the water stands so long, the water in the tree stand often harbors potentially harmful bacteria. Fertilizers, insecticides, or flame retardants that were used on the tree may also get into the water. Cover the stand with a tree skirt or use other means to prevent access to the water.



### Training

**Our Next Puppy Group Class will be in January 2008!**

**The training class is limited to "10", so call as soon as possible to book a spot for you and your pup!**

### Visitors

Some pets love visitors and behave very well. Others may be fearful or aggressive. Some puppies may urinate when meeting people. Still, others may be too full of holiday cheer and over-exuberant. Plan for how your dog will react to visitors. A quiet room, away from the commotion with water and food available will help fearful dogs be more comfortable.

### New Pets

New pets are not good holiday gifts!

Similarly, if thinking about getting a new pet for yourself, remember pets need routine and a time to bond with you. With its noise, commotion, and special hazards, the holiday season is anything but routine. Think about getting your new dog after the holidays. Why not make the holidays more enjoyable for homeless pets? Contact your local animal shelter to see if you can donate food, kitty litter, toys, or time.

### Pet Gifts and Treats

When choosing a holiday gift for your special friend, be sure it is safe - no small pieces that could come off and be swallowed. Choose healthy holiday treats for your dog and give them in moderation. With all of the festivities, do not forget to relax and spend some quality time with your pet. Your dog will think that is the best gift of all.



