



**MEDIA ALERT**

## **8 Holiday Safety Tips Will Help Keep Your Pets Safe and Healthy**

CHICAGO (Dec. 9, 2015) – At our 24-hour Emergency Hospital in Plainfield, Christmas Eve and Christmas are extremely busy days with animals coming in with holiday related injuries. Dr. Tony Kremer has eight suggestions for keeping Fido and Fluffy safe during the holidays. The list includes items that animals could ingest as well as other holiday-related items that could harm them. “Dogs, especially, will eat just about anything,” says Dr. Kremer. “Always err on the side of caution, knowing that people food, in general, can upset an animal’s stomach.”

### **Dr. Tony’s 8 Holiday No-Nos for Pets**

**1. Candles**

Never leave pets alone in a room with burning candles. Candles aren’t really an ingestion hazard, but one swish of the tail could set the house on fire.

**2. Potpourri**

Both dry potpourri and liquid potpourri in simmer pots pose a serious risk to pets. Liquid potpourri consists of essential oils and cationic detergents that can scald and also cause serious illness when lapped up. Dry potpourri, which consists of a variety of dried plants and pine cones, is often treated with essential oils; it is almost certain to cause stomach upset.

**3. Tree water**

Animals will attempt to drink from any pool of water, including the one in which your tree is sitting! The water in your tree stand likely contains fertilizers and sap from the tree that will result in unpleasant stomach issues for your pet.

**4. Electrical wires / Christmas lights**

Anyone with puppies or bunnies should be especially vigilant about their animals chewing on electrical cords; doing so can give your furry friend an unwanted zap!

**5. Ribbons, bows and tinsel**

Cats love to play with tinsel, yarn and ribbons! Be watchful as your cat plays during this season of abundant decorating since ingesting long, stringy objects can cause obstructions and bunching in the animal’s intestines that will require emergency surgery.

**6. Homemade ornaments**

Anything edible that hangs on the tree spells trouble for your pooch. This includes gingerbread ornaments, popcorn balls, garland strings and candy canes.

**7. Glass ornaments**

Dangly, shiny things within an animal's reach are just begging to be broken. Cats will be tempted to bat them off the tree, posing a broken glass hazard for pets, kids and everyone involved. Plastic ornaments are a better bet.

**8. Alcohol**

Some people think it's funny to feed their pet an alcoholic drink and see them get tipsy, but even small amounts of beer, wine and liquor are toxic to animals.

**About Dr. Tony Kremer**

Dr. Kremer is a prominent veterinarian based in Chicago, Illinois who currently operates six veterinary hospitals (<http://drtony.com/>) in the Chicago area and Columbus, Ohio. President and co-founder of Help Save Pets (<http://HelpSavePets.org>) an animal shelter that has adopted more than 1,000 animals a year into loving homes, Dr. Kremer is also a member of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association Public Education Committee who routinely gets the word out about responsible pet ownership. Dr. Kremer co-founded the Humane Society of Plainfield, Illinois to save dogs and cats from euthanasia. He is involved with Chenny Troupe, an animal-assisted therapy group. Dr. Kremer graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990 and later conducted post-graduate study at The Ohio State University in advanced orthopedic surgery. He has a special interest in performing advanced knee and hip procedures as well as complicated fracture repair. In his veterinary practices, Dr. Kremer brings the latest technology and techniques to his patients. Dr. Kremer has founded three scholarships for veterinary students who have financial need. He is also a member of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association Public Education Committee and a certified Veterinary Journalist, appearing regularly on local radio and TV programs in segments that educate people about animals.

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