

GIVE Pets GOOD Lives

LIFE #4 - Holiday Hazards

- A pet is a big commitment, please don't give pets as surprise gifts.
- When traveling with pets, make sure they are properly secured, have current ID tags and vaccinations. Before leaving, make sure they are welcome at your destination.
- Increased activity at holiday time can be stressful to animals and humans. Create a safe and quiet space for your pets when guests are visiting.
- Holidays items like chocolate, Xylitol-artificial sweetener, avocados, grapes, tinsel, and lights are dangerous for pets. Keep decorations and human treats out of reach.
- Many indoor house plants can be poisonous, so check before you buy them.
- Year end tax deductible donations to animal charities are always needed and welcomed.
- For more information on holiday hazards visit www.hsus.org or <http://www.nhes.org/>



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LIFE #5 – WINTER PET CARE TIPS

- **Indoors** – keep your pet indoors if possible. It is a safer and more secure environment for them. Wind chill can kill.
- **Shelter** – if your pet must be outside, be sure they have a warm and water proof shelter that is off of the ground with some type of bedding such as hay or straw. Appropriate size is important to maximize the pets body temperature. Shelter doors should be covered and facing away from the wind.
- **Warm engines of parked cars** attract cats and small wildlife who may crawl up under the hood for warmth. Knock on your hood and honk your horn before starting to scare them away.
- **Water** – even in cold weather pets need plenty of fresh water – not frozen. Pets typically need more food in the winter months.
- Remember that **antifreeze** (ethylene glycol) is very poisonous for both pets and humans – make sure it is not accessible.
- **Rock salt and other chemicals** used on icy steps or driveways can cut or irritate a pet's paws and be very painful.
- **Spend time with your pet.** Dogs and cats are social animals and deserve to live indoors with you.
- For more information: <http://www.nhes.org/>; www.hsus.org



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LIFE # 6 - KEEP YOUR PET HEALTHY

- **ID – MICROPCHIPPING** increases the chances of your pet being returned to you if lost or stolen. Also, keep a collar on your dog with current vaccination and ID tags
- **Yearly check up** – and vaccinations with a vet
- **Neuter** – reduces reproductive cancers and wandering
- **Housing** – inside with you is safest and preferred. If they must be outside at any time then also an appropriate shelter.
- **Flea and tick treatment** as required
- **Regular grooming** – bathing, brushing, nail trim and brush teeth – and a hair cut if necessary
- **Heartworm preventative** for dogs - and now for cats
- **Basic training** - for a well behaved pet – look for local, qualified trainers.
- **Love, affection and play time with you!**
- **For more information:** <http://www.aspca.org/>;
www.hsus.org; <http://www.nhes.org/>

