

HOLIDAY HAZARDS

KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Along with holiday and winter fun come a host of hazards for pets - ingested substances that can be harmful or even cause death. To help pet owners handle these emergencies, [Angell's Emergency service is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in both our Boston and Waltham locations](#). Our board-certified specialists work together to ensure you and your pet receive the care and compassion you deserve.



XYLITOL

Xylitol is an artificial sweetener commonly found in sugar-free sweets. Once ingested, it is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream resulting in profound hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), liver disease, and bleeding abnormalities. Signs of xylitol toxicity can occur between 9-72 hours of ingestion and include vomiting, lethargy, collapse, and seizures.

CHOCOLATE OR COFFEE

Vomiting, rapid heart rate and signs of anxiety can be seen with the ingestion of as little as 1/4 ounce of baking chocolate by a 10-pound dog. Coffee can produce the same effects.

CHRISTMAS TREE PRESERVATIVE/WATER

Preservative may contain fertilizers, which, if ingested, can upset the stomach. Stagnant tree water can be a breeding ground for bacteria, leading to vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea.

ORNAMENTS, RIBBONS, & TINSEL

While none of these are directly toxic, ribbon and tinsel can cause life-threatening gastrointestinal blockage.

HOLIDAY PLANTS: HOLLY, MISTLETOE, LILIES, & POINSETTIA

Eating holly could produce nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy. If a dog or cat ingests mistletoe, gastrointestinal upset and possibly cardiovascular problems could result. All parts of lilies are highly toxic to cats, with the potential to produce life-threatening kidney failure even from small ingestions. While the toxic potential of poinsettia has been exaggerated, mild stomach upset could still occur.

YEAST DOUGH

Raw yeast dough can rise in the stomach and cause extreme discomfort. Pets may experience abdominal pain, bloat, vomiting, disorientation, and depression. Since a breakdown product of rising dough is alcohol, it can also cause alcohol poisoning. Many yeast ingestions require surgical intervention, and even small amounts can be dangerous.

GARLIC, ONIONS, & CHIVES

Large amounts of these products can significantly damage red blood cells causing anemia and possible kidney failure. Signs of toxicity include weakness, pale gums, and rapid heart rate.

TABLE FOOD (FATTY, SPICY), MOLDY FOODS, POULTRY BONES

Poultry bones can splinter and cause damage or blockage in the gastrointestinal tract. Spicy or fatty foods could possibly lead to inflammation of the pancreas. Moldy or spoiled foods could produce food poisoning, tremors, or seizures.

MACADAMIA NUTS

In dogs, ingestions can produce vomiting, weakness (particularly in the hind legs), depression, lack of coordination, and tremors.

GRAPES & RAISINS

Ingestions of raisins and grapes have been associated with acute kidney failure in dogs.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

If ingested, alcohol can potentially result in vomiting, diarrhea, lack of coordination, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, acidosis, coma, and even death.

ANTIFREEZE

Antifreeze products containing ethylene glycol are highly toxic and can produce life-threatening kidney damage, even in small amounts. Many windshield washer products contain methanol, which if ingested can cause drooling, vomiting, drunkenness and severe central nervous system depression.

ICE MELT

Ice melt products may contain ingredients that can be very irritating to the skin and gastrointestinal tract, and could also potentially result in more severe effects including depression, weakness, disorientation, low blood pressure, cardiac problems, seizures, coma and even death depending on the type of ice melt and circumstances of exposure.



If you suspect your pet may have ingested any of these items, contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Hotline (888-426-4435) for advice as soon as possible.
A \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card for this service.

