



# NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 18, 2007

## Holiday Safety Tips for Companion Animals

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**Los Angeles** – LA Animal Services is issuing some Holiday Safety Tips to help keep your whole family safe and happy during this special season.

The holidays are a time for family, friends, and fun. But with all the tempting foods, exotic plants, and artificial decorations around, your animal companions may need a little extra protection to keep them safe and happy around this special time of year. Enjoy the holidays with all your family and friends, human or otherwise, by following these helpful hints:

- Check holiday plants for toxicity. Some common winter flora (including mistletoe and holly berries) can be potentially poisonous to animal companions. If you think that your animal companion may have ingested a poisonous substance, immediately contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline at (888) 426-4435.
- Keep your animal companions on their regular diet and avoid giving them too many treats to avoid digestive problems. Some holiday food, like chocolate and items containing alcohol, can be deadly to animals, so be sure your guests know this.
- Prevent animal companions from drinking Christmas tree water, which may be contaminated with fertilizer or harmful bacteria.
- Avoid tinsel, shiny decorations, and breakable objects, which may attract animals. If ingested, ribbons, tinsel, or broken ornament shards can become lodged in the intestines.
- Take extra caution when burning candles around the house. Tail-wagging dogs and jumping cats can knock over candles and start fires. Never leave lit candles unattended.
- The holidays can be stressful for animals who are sensitive to noise and not used to the bustle of social activity. If this describes your animal companion, be sure that he or she has a safe haven in your house if you host a holiday party or gathering, and check in periodically to make sure he/she is comfortable.

For more information or assistance call LA Animal Services at  
1-888-452LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381

(TTY Hearing impaired: 877-875-8205) or visit the website at [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com).

*We create happiness by bringing pets and people together!*