



Pine Meadow Newsletter

Fall/ Winter
2016

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Holiday Hazards

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PMVC is having their first annual 5K run on October 22, 2016 at the Escambia County Equestrian Center from 8a-12p. There will be registration from 7:15a-7:45a, but early registration is available online through a link on the PMVC Facebook. Scan this QR code to register online!



The holiday season is upon us. As it approaches many people will start to decorate and plan which gifts they will get for their sweet fur-babies. However, one should be aware of some of the potential risks associated with holiday decorations, certain human foods, and poisonous plants that may be present during the holiday season. The following lists some examples of each that may be harmful to pets. There may be some decorations, foods, and plants that are not listed below that may still be harmful.

Decorations: Tinsel, candles, wires, imitation snow, ribbons, batteries, and ornaments.

Foods: Chocolate, xylitol, fat trimmings, bones, grapes, raisins, coffee, alcohol, and macadamia nuts.

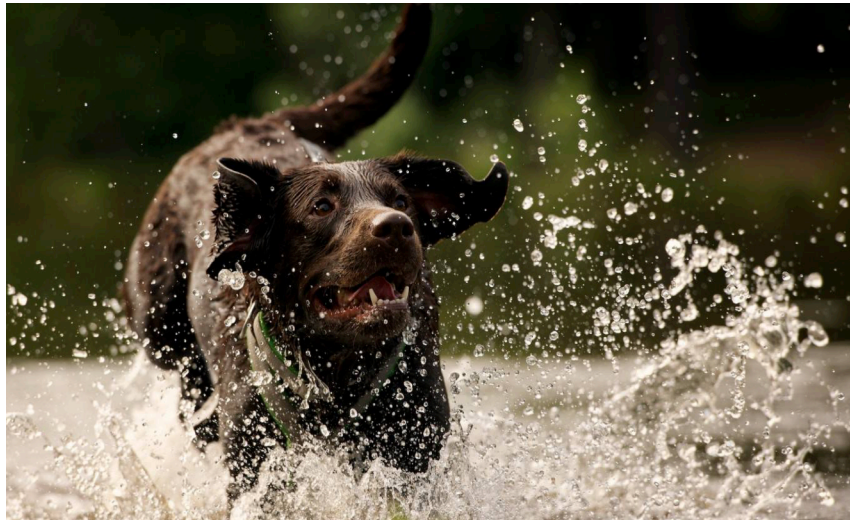
Plants: Poinsettia, mistletoe, amaryllis, holly, and pine needles.



If your pet ingests any of these harmful items, some of the symptoms they may experience include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, loss of appetite, dehydration, and abdominal pain; however, each individual is different and may experience different symptoms. In the case that they ingest any of these items and exhibit these or any other questionable symptoms, it would be recommended to see a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Leptospirosis

A recent study tested 33,000 dogs over a period of 7 years and found a 600% increase in the prevalence of canine leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it can be transmitted from animal to human through contaminated urine. Rats and raccoons are carriers of the bacteria, but soil and water contaminated with the leptospira bacteria are the primary means of transmission to other animals. It is common in areas with warm climates and high annual rainfall. Dogs are more commonly infected than cats and signs can include: fever, shivering, muscle tenderness, increase thirst, changes in frequency or amount of urination, dehydration, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy, jaundice (yellowing of the skin), and painful inflammation within the eyes. Pine Meadow Veterinary Clinic offers a vaccination for this disease. Your pet would receive an initial vaccination and then a booster vaccination three weeks later. The vaccination is then given yearly with other annual vaccinations.



Flea and Heartworm Prevention

Year round heartworm and flea prevention is highly recommended!

Flea eggs can remain dormant for up to a year and develop into adults when the temperature, carbon dioxide levels, vibrations, and moisture levels in the environment are ideal for survival of adult fleas. In other words, baby fleas can “hide” in your house or yard and wait until there is sufficient food, warmth and humidity to become adult fleas which will feed on blood from human and animals alike. These ideal conditions are common in early spring especially after heavy rains. Thousands of dormant flea eggs that have been collecting and waiting can all hatch at the same time. Even the most effective flea preventions will struggle to keep fleas off your pet in the face of such a high environmental flea burden. Continuing flea prevention through the winter months is your best tool to stop this cycle.

Heartworm disease is spread to dogs (and sometimes cats) by mosquitos. Contrary to what many believe, our mild Florida winters do not eliminate the threat of mosquitos. In fact, it would require multiple consecutive days of consistently below freezing temperatures to cause any significant decrease in the mosquito or flea population. Mosquitos even find their way into our homes-especially in the cooler months when a warm home is inviting. Monthly heartworm prevention is highly effective at preventing transmission of heartworm disease to your pet.

Consistently administering flea and heartworm prevention to your pets year round can minimize disease transmission and visits to the veterinarian.

Pine Meadow Veterinary Clinic will be having a Christmas Prevention Raffle starting December 1st, 2016, in which each dose of heartworm and flea prevention purchased qualifies as an entry into the raffle; for example purchasing 12 doses result in 12 entries. The winner of the raffle will be awarded a holiday basket full of toys and treats.

Alleviating Winter Arthritis

During the winter months, aches and pains due to arthritis tend to increase a fair amount. No one is positive as to why this occurs, but there are a few theories involving effects of cold and air pressure on muscle. Whatever the cause, maintaining a healthy weight and regular exercise can help to alleviate arthritis pain for pets. Any added weight increases the wear and tear on already painful joints. A weight reducing diet and increased activity are usually recommended in order to start the loss of unnecessary weight. A veterinarian should examine your pet prior to starting such a diet. Every other day exercise is recommended and the exercise should not be high impact, like running or jumping. Swimming can be most helpful as there is no pressure added to the joints.

Keeping pets warm can help to alleviate aches and pains as well. A well-padded bed and even a pet-friendly heated blanket are both notable options, but most important is keeping pets indoors during the cold months due to the cold weather outdoors.



Gifting Pets

Many people will make the decision to surprise a friend or family member with a pet during the holidays as a gift. When making the decision to get someone a pet there are many factors to consider. The prospective owner's financial status is an important factor to think about as the cost of a well-cared for pet is typically over \$1000 in the first year. Pets will need to see a veterinarian for their vaccinations and several booster vaccinations initially. Also, young pets often get into things that they shouldn't resulting in a couple veterinary office visits. They will need everything from beds to food and bowls and maybe even toys in the beginning as well. All of those things will add up in costs over time and many people do not realize that when they think about getting a pet.

Pets require a large amount of time. They will need consistent potty-training and sometimes even behavioral training. A pet owner needs to have the time and patience for training while also playing with the new pet and helping get him acclimated to his new environment.

Time should be invested in researching breeds of both cats and dogs. Some breeds are more active, have strong-willed personalities, or may be predisposed to certain medical conditions. This may affect cost of care or the type of training needed for the pet. For example, high energy breeds may not be an ideal choice for the elderly or those living in apartments. As pets do not come with a gift receipt and typically are non-refundable, these factors are important to think about when considering gifting a pet to someone.



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Upcoming Events & Hours

Closed Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Christmas, and New Year's Day

11/23/16 Closed Half day Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve

October 22, 2016: PMVC First Annual 5K Run

October: Sponsor mammograms. For every spay performed in October, 10% of the cost of the procedure will be donated to Baptist Free Mammogram Clinic

11/19 and 20: National Dog Show. Pick best in show and win free bath and grooming kit.

December: Arc Gateway (a program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities) Wreath Gala

February: Dental Month 10% off Dental Cleanings

2/13-14 Westminster Dog Show. Pick best in show and win free bath and grooming kit.

March: Free nail trims when pets wear green the week of St. Patrick's Day