



~~~Happy Holidays~~~

From Pace Veterinary Clinic!



Happy Holidays! We've had a great year here at Pace Veterinary Clinic. We'd like to thank you for allowing us the privilege of caring for your pets. With the holidays and winter months among us, we'd like to set you up with some tips on how to care for and keep your pets safe this season.

The temperatures are dropping, and when the weather outside is frightful you need to ensure that your pets stay safe and warm. The best way to keep your pets warm of course is to keep them inside, but if your pets stay outside year round, make certain that they have a warm place to go. Puppies and kittens as well as older dogs and cats should not be outside for extended amounts of time because they don't have the fat, metabolism, or the full fur coat needed to stay warm in the coldest times of the year. At no time should you leave your pets alone in the car. A car can act as a refrigerator trapping the cold air inside, possibly causing harm to your pet. When bathing your pets in the winter, take extra time to completely dry it's fur before returning outside, and never shave your pets down to the skin in the colder months, as a longer coat of fur may help to keep them warm.

The care taken in keeping your pets warm in the colder months is very similar in both cats and dogs. Make sure your pets have a warm, dry, draft-free covered shelter to take refuge when the temperature drops. You can use a pet house, a wooden box, even a cardboard box insulating all sides and the bottom with foam board, old

blankets, or plastic. Check the bedding daily; dirty, wet bedding can be very harmful to your pets. If possible, place the shelter in a garage or covered porch to provide a few additional degrees of warmth. You can make the shelter warmer by using electric heating, but to lessen the risk of burns or electrocution, be sure to use heating products specifically made for animals. Finally, make sure your pets are getting the food you put out and not the other neighborhood animals. Your pets need the extra calories to keep warm. Also, check the water regularly for freezing.

Additionally, you may notice that you have abandoned or feral cats in your neighborhood. If this is the case, beware of cats taking shelter under the hood of your car in cold weather. We suggest that you bang on the hood of your car or toot your horn to shoo the kitties away.

Another concern we have during the winter is that most people use anti-freeze in their vehicles; anti-freeze is deadly to animals in even small amounts. Anti-freeze is very sweet and can be irresistible to some pets. Pets can be poisoned just by walking through spilled anti-freeze and licking their paws. If you suspect that your pet has ingested anti-freeze, do not wait for signs of sickness; take your pet to the veterinarian for treatment immediately. As always, the best treatment is prevention, so make sure that all bottles of antifreeze are tightly closed and placed on a high shelf. You may also choose to use only pet-friendly antifreeze brands.

January and February are Pace Veterinary Clinic's Dental Health Awareness months.

We are offering a 10% discount on all dental cleanings during this time. To prevent dental disease, your pet needs routine dental care at home. But to perform good home care, you need to start with clean teeth. Brushing will remove plaque but not tartar. So if your pet's teeth have tartar, it is necessary for your veterinarian to remove it and polish the teeth. This professional veterinary dental cleaning is often called a prophylaxis or "prophy."

Cold weather is not the only thing to consider for your pets during this season. Most pet parents like to include their furry family members in the holiday festivities, so while you celebrate, try to stick to your regular routine as much as possible including feedings, walking, and playtime. Keep in mind that your pets may feel a little overwhelmed or frightened by guests if you are hosting a holiday party. Some guests may also feel uncomfortable around your pets. Therefore, you may want to keep your pets in a kennel or a room that will not be used by guests. If you choose not to confine your pet, keep them close by your side or with a family member to keep him comfortable and from getting into trouble. It's also important to be aware of the dangers of certain foods and decorations typical to the holiday season.

We all love a little treat, especially around the holidays. We also like to treat our furry little ones, so it's important to know what is safe and what is not safe to give to your pets. We love to see your pets, but we still want to help prevent any illnesses that may be caused by over treating your pets. Your pets can enjoy the holidays in other ways that won't end up with a medical bill. Here is a brief list to review. Please make sure that during your celebrations your pets do not have: alcoholic beverages, avocado, bones from your meal, chocolate, fat trimmings, fish, grapes, raisins, hops, macadamia nuts, milk, mushrooms, onions, garlic, raw meat, rhubarb leaves, yeast dough, or xylitol. To learn of the effects these foods may have on your pets, you can visit the **Client Education** tab on our website. www.paceveterinaryclinic.com But we all know that food is not the only thing our pets want to play with or eat during the holidays.



Some holiday decorations can be dangerous to your pets. We'll give you some tips, so you can decorate for your festivities, and keep your pets safe. A Christmas tree can pose multiple threats to your little ones. Make sure that your tree is securely anchored, so that it doesn't fall over. Also keep the water fresh, and try not to use any fertilizers. Stagnant tree water is a perfect place for the growth of bacteria, that when ingested can cause your pets illness. The pine needles of live and artificial trees are sharp and could be ingested. Please check your tree area regularly for needles or keep it blocked off from the reach of your pets. Avoid placing edible or glass ornaments and lights on the lower branches of your tree, and do not use tinsel. Your pets may find these items very interesting and want to play with them or ingest them. Also keep your electrical cords out of view from your curious pets. Mistletoe, poinsettia, and holly are poisonous to your pets and should be placed in a higher location or avoided all together. Even with all of these restrictions, your holiday décor and festivities can still be fun and pet friendly.

We are happy to be a resource for you should you have any additional concerns about your pets this holiday season.

Pace Veterinary Clinic
Refer a friend and receive 10% off
products or services.



Fill this form in with your information, and have your friend fill in their information. When your friend brings this form in, you both receive a one-time 10% discount on products or services.

Your Name _____ Your Phone Number _____
Friend's Name _____ Friend's Phone Number _____

We hope you have a safe and Happy New Year!

We are available to you by phone 850-994-1597,



or through our website www.paceveterinaryclinic.com.