



NVH Pawprints

Newtown Veterinary Hospital

December 2007

The Season of Giving by: Dr. Timothy Ireland V.M.D.

We have all heard the adage “give a man (or woman or child) some food and feed them for a day, teach them to fish and feed them for a lifetime.” Well, since 1944 a group called Heifer International has been teaching starving people to “fish”! In 1944 Heifer International sent 17 pregnant cows to post war China and gave 17 families the gift of milk. Each of those families gave away the calves born to those cows helping more families. Since 1944, Heifer International has helped 8.5 million families or the equivalent of 45 million women, men and children in more than 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance through the gift of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture. The impact of each gift is multiplied

as each recipient agrees to “pass on the gift” by giving one or more of their animal’s offspring, or the equivalent, to another in need. Since that first shipment of cows, Heifer International has diversified their efforts to include goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, chicks, Llamas, honeybees and even water buffalo! You can donate a starter flock of chicks for as little as \$20, honeybees for \$30 or a trio of rabbits for \$60 (and you know what they say about rabbits!) Pigs, goats and sheep are \$120, Llamas are \$150, water buffalo \$250 or a Heifer for \$500. This is truly the gift that keeps on giving. You can give as little as \$10 for a share of an animal, donate the full amount for an animal or join the Newtown Veterinary Hospital and

or friends as we try to raise enough money to donate a Gift Ark. If we can raise \$5,000 we can donate a Gift Ark which includes: 2 cows, 2 sheep, 2 camels, 2 oxen, 2 water buffalo, 2 pigs, 2 beehives, 2 goats, 2 donkeys, 2 trios of ducks, 2 trios of rabbits, 2 trios of guinea pigs, 2 flocks of geese, 2 flocks of chicks and 2 Llamas. In the words from the recent movie *Evan Almighty* we can change the world with one “ARK” (Act of Random Kindness).

Please consider going to www.heifer.org/catalog to make your individual donation or send your checks made out to Heifer International to us at NVH as we raise money to donate a Gift Ark. All donations are fully tax deductible.

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Fun Animal Facts:

- Armadillos can be house broken.
- Polar bears camouflage themselves more completely during a hunt by covering their black noses with their paws.
- Other than humans, black lemurs are the only primates that may have blue eyes.
- Murphy’s Oil Soap is the chemical most commonly used to clean elephants.

Giving the Gift of Adoption by: Dog Fancy Dec 2007

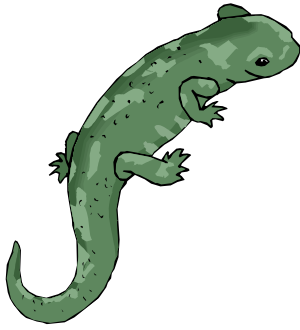
Giving a pet as holiday gifts can be a tricky thing, so Petfinder.com has come up with a positive alternative: the Pet Promise Certificate. Recipients of this gift voucher can adopt a pet

of their own choosing - a dog, cat, or any pet available through the Petfinder.com network - and initial adoption fees are covered. Visit www.petfinder.com/petpromise for more

information.



Around the World By: Best Friends Nov/Dec 2007



Tiger Woods, Meet Salamander Greens

United States: If American scientists have their way, you'll find just as many toads and salamanders as birdies and eagles on golf courses in coming years. Researchers say the 70% of golf course land not used for playing could make great nature sanctuaries if properly maintained. "These managed green spaces aren't surrogates for protected land and ecosystems, but they can include suitable habitat for species native to the area," says Ray Semlitsch, biology professor at the University



"When a man's best friend is his dog, that dog has a problem."
- Edward Abbey

"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him."
- Dereke Bruce



Pets and the Holidays By: Laura Bond

The holiday season brings excitement and commotion and in all the activities of the season our beloved pets may be exposed to hazards less commonly found at other times of the year. While you are busy making your festive plans for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas, please don't forget to include your pets. Though the season is a time for giving, there are some things you should not share with your pets. Your furry little family members may be greatly intrigued by the new sites, smells, and tastes but once you know the hazards, a little precaution and prevention will help to make the holidays run a little smoother.

The following are some of the most common health concerns for your pet during the holidays:
Tinsel, Ribbon & other pretty,

of Missouri-Columbia.

In a study with colleagues, Semlitsch found that drying golf course ponds in late summer or early fall would help discourage bullfrog tadpoles and would therefore promote biodiversity and the survival of American toads, southern leopard frogs and spotted salamanders. The full study will be published in an upcoming issue of the journal *Conservation Biology*.

Hidden Treasures

Congo: Six new species - a bat, a rodent, two shrews and two frogs - were discovered here as a once-

forgotten forest gave up its secrets.

Scientists were exploring an area west of Lake Tanganyika in a remote corner of the country that had been isolated from the Congo rain forest for 10,000 years. Chimps, elephants, mongooses, amphibians and hogs are just some of the species thriving there, as well as many plants not yet identified.

The Wildlife Conservation Society hopes the eco-rich acreage, which is about the size of Hong Kong, will be converted into a protected park.

glittery, dangling tings - ribbon, wrapping paper, ornaments, tinsel, extension cords and gifts may be especially appealing to your pet as "chew toys". When ingested, things such as ribbon, tinsel etc. can be very serious. The ingestion of tinsel can be deadly. Eating tinsel or other string like items such as ribbon can cause serious damage to the intestines. Pets with linear foreign bodies quickly become ill with signs including vomiting, diarrhea, depression, belly pain and sometimes fever. If a foreign body does become lodged, surgery is required to remove it. Sharp or breakable ornaments, dreidels, and even aluminum foil should be kept out of reach of pets also.

Christmas Lights and Extension Cords - Chewing on Christmas lights can be a

temptation for some critters, the same with extension cords. This can cause them to get shocked. This can occur from defective cords and from a pet chewing on them. Both indoor and outdoor lights should be carefully examined to ensure safety for your household pets. Check cords for signs of bite marks, loose frayed wires, proximity to the tree's water supply or evidence of short circuits. Be sure all cords are secured and out of the way.

Electrical shock can cause burns, difficulty breathing, abnormal heart rhythm, loss of consciousness and death. Call a veterinarian immediately if your pet has been injured by electrical shock. Treatment will be most effective if begun soon after shock.

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News from the Net by: Ananova

Hiss of Life for Fire Snake

A snake rescued from a flat blaze was revived by oxygen kit normally used only on humans.

Pet iguanas, tortoises, terrapins and parrots were also evacuated, reports the

Daily Mirror.

But firefighters opted for the breathing apparatus as the corn snake had inhaled too much smoke.

The flat owner escaped the 3am flames in Tipton, West Midlands, and went to hospital as a precaution

while the RSPCA took his exotic menagerie into care.

But fire crews said: "We had to administer oxygen therapy to the snake which wasn't an easy task."

"We hadn't dealt with anything like it before."



Can't Handle the Bath? By: Cat Fancy Dec 2007

Take your cat to a groomer instead.

Perhaps bathing your cat isn't in the cards for you. Don't worry! There are plenty of groomers out there who will do the job for you. The trick is finding someone who is perfect for you - and your cat.

"Do your homework," says veterinarian Kelly Jones, owner of Cat Hospital of Wichita, in Wichita, Kan. "There are good groomers and bad ones. Sometimes you can be lucky enough to find a groomer that will perform any grooming at your house, which is best. Ask if you can be present during grooming."

If the groomer you plan on

using works at a facility, ask to take a tour. Check to see whether it's well-lit, how large the cages are and whether cats and dogs are separated. Sniff around, and see what the place smells like. Check to see how well-monitored the animals are, watch how the staff handles the animals, find out what kinds of records the groomer keeps on each animal and speak to the staff to ensure that they are friendly, caring and knowledgeable.

Quiz potential groomers. Learn more about their backgrounds - where they were educated in grooming, how long they've been in business, if they'll provide

you with photos of some of their work, what professional organizations they're affiliated with and the types of client services they offer. Also find out if they have the skills to perform requested styling preferences for your cat.

Choosing a groomer can be confusing, so getting referrals is essential. Speak to people you know - veterinarians, pet sitters, friends - and learn more about who they've used for cat grooming. Ask potential groomers if they will provide contact information from prior clients, so you can discuss what types of experiences they had with the facility.

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself."
- Josh Billings

"Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea."
- Robert A. Heinlein

Pets and the Holidays continued from page 2

Cold Weather - Unseasonably cold weather means it's time to give special attention to your pets, both indoor and outdoor. When temperatures reach extremely cold levels, it's time to give your outdoor cat and dog a break and invite them in, even if it's in the garage. By "inside" that does not mean letting cats and dogs in and out of a warm house from night to day. Creating an abrupt

temperature contrast can increase the risk of some infectious diseases. Consider housing them in the shelter of a well built dog house or bringing them into a shed or garage. Outdoor cats will seek warmth and sometimes this includes near or on a car engine. This means that if they do not move when you go to start the engine, they could be seriously injured or even killed. Before starting the

engine, tap on the hood a couple times to chase them off. Another weather related hazard is the salt used on snowy or icy days. When ingested, it can cause inflammation of the digestive tract. That is why it is important to wipe your dog's feet when he comes in. You could even do this for your cat. It is when your pet grooms himself that he is likely to ingest the salt.

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CALENDAR

December 4th - Hanukkah begins
December 24th - Christmas Eve open 8am-12pm
December 25th - Christmas CLOSED
December 26th - open 12pm to 8pm
December 31st - New Year's Eve open 8am-4pm
January 1st - New Year's Day CLOSED

Our four-legged friends who have passed away

Dappy Rainville, Chester Gamble, Molly Gesmonde, Euripides Lagomarsino, Sunday Salvatore, Ginger Nordham, Holly McKee, Billy Thurber, Hannah and Charlie Woodward, Teddy Lux, Dutchie Hartley, Mario wolfinger, Baxter Maloney, Tigger Schettino, Tyler Dumont, Tiffon Kovacs, Cody Keltz, Mercedes Blackman, Mason Dieter, Mindy Parker, Coco Rockar,



Shadow O'Keeffe, Eddie Rotella, McKensie Carnahan, Poco Crane, Casper Collins, Lance Griffith, Smokey Robinson, Luke Wagner, Robyn Wei, Bishop Pesceone, Sabrina Zahirnyi, Jonah Eisele, Mister Proto, Buddy Muhlbauer, Boomer Martinez, Tigger Marquiss, Madison Doyle

We Will Miss Them All

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Lastly, keep an eye on your pet's outside water. Remember, if it is cold enough it will freeze. Ice is not a substitute for clean water.

Christmas Trees, Holiday Plants, Potpourri and Candles - If you are going to be putting up a Christmas tree make sure it is well secured. Watch that your pet is not eating the needles. Ingested pine needles can puncture your pets intestines if sharp enough. Also watch that your pet is not drinking the tree water which often times contains preservatives. This can cause gastric upset. Either make it inaccessible to your pet or just don't use it at all. Avoid using sugar and aspirin additives in your tree water altogether. If you add chemicals to the water be sure to read the label to make sure it is safe for your pet.

Holly and mistletoe are extremely poisonous to your pets and prove to be quite dangerous when eaten. Mistletoe can cause vomiting, diarrhea, nausea, muscle tremors, trouble breathing, seizures, and

shock. Depending on how much is eaten, Mistletoe can cause death. Holly berries can cause severe gastrointestinal disturbances and depression of the nervous system. Always seek veterinary care in the case of poisoning.

The Pointsettia has received bad publicity in the past where it may not be truly poisonous. It's sap, which is milky white in color, and it's leaves can certainly cause severe gastric distress. They can irritate the mouth but if signs develop they are usually mild. However, with so many hybrid varieties available, the best approach is to keep plants out of your pet's reach.

Potpourri may make your house smell festive but may also be another attraction for pets to try to drink from or eat. Make sure that potpourri pots are covered and out of your pet's reach. Lighted candles should never be left unattended and that is even more important if they are placed at your pet's eye level. Anchor candles away from curious faces and feet. Hot wax and

open flames can quickly become disastrous.

Bones, Fat, Chocolate and Overindulgence - Well-intentioned family and friends may share holiday foods with your pet or their own pet thinking they are giving "just a little treat". However, these "treats" can wreak havoc on a pet's sensitive system. Holiday favorites can cause the pet to develop a stomach upset or worse, pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) which can be caused by eating fatty foods. Foods too rich, too fatty or too spicy—or anything your pet is not used to—can trigger a bout of intestinal upset.

The holiday turkey or chicken will leave a lot of tantalizing bones, but do NOT feed them to your pet. Also, beware of steak bones. Small bones or bone chips can lodge in the throat, stomach and intestinal tract.

Steer clear from feeding your pet gravies, poultry skin and anything cooked in oil. These foods can also cause severe gastrointestinal upset.

What would the holidays be without boxes of chocolate or hot cocoa? However, as most people know chocolate can be toxic and even fatal to dogs and cats.

Whether your pet gets a hold of a box of Christmas chocolates or it is given as a treat it is not a good thing. Chocolate poisoning occurs most frequently in dogs but other species are susceptible also. Theobromine is the toxic compound found in chocolate. Signs which may appear within 1 to 4 hours of eating chocolate include: Vomiting, increased thirst, diarrhea, weakness, difficulty keeping balance, hyperexcitability, muscle spasms, seizures, coma, death from abnormal heart rhythm.

The toxicity of chocolate depends on the amount and type of chocolate ingested. As with any poisoning call your veterinarian or emergency veterinary hospital immediately. Have the product label information available when you call. The sooner treatment can start the better.

For more info go to www.aspc.org