



WINTERTIME DANGERS FOR PETS

THE WINTER MONTHS BRING CELEBRATIONS AND ACTIVITIES THAT CAN PRESENT SERIOUS DANGERS TO PETS. THE INQUISITIVE NATURE OF CATS, AND A DOG'S STRONG SENSE OF SMELL CAUSE THEM TO GET INTO DECORATIONS, FOOD AND SWEETS THAT CAN LEAD TO A FRANTIC VISIT TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.

"Winter presents many opportunities for pets to get into trouble, sometimes with serious health consequences," said June LaFave, DVM, medical director of the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center (CVESC). "Each winter, we see pets that become seriously ill after ingesting food, candy or decorations. These items can do more than cause stomach upset, they can lead to poisoning, pancreatitis, surgery, or even death." Here are some common winter dangers.

ANTIFREEZE

Each winter, both cats and dogs die from antifreeze (ethylene glycol) poisoning. Antifreeze is extremely toxic to pets and even a small amount can result in the animal's death. Although Illinois requires a bittering agent in antifreeze to offset its sweet taste, that may not stop all cats and dogs from ingesting this highly toxic fluid.

If you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze, bring it immediately to CVESC. Antifreeze poisoning is often difficult to diagnose, but if that is the diagnosis, CVESC does keep the antidote onhand and can provide supportive

treatment to help your pet recover. A pet's consumption of antifreeze is a serious emergency and time is of the essence.

BEVERAGES

Alcohol, coffee, soft drinks, tea and other beverages can cause illness, poisoning or death for pets. Don't leave unattended drinks within your pet's reach.

DECORATIONS

Holiday decorations with all their sparkle attract curious cats and dogs. If ingested, glitter, angel hair, Christmas tinsel, glow sticks and other holiday decorations can cause serious health problems for pets. Cats are especially at risk for ingesting tinsel and ribbon. This can lead to the need for surgery or result in death. So be sure to keep these items away from your pets and dispose of them properly when opening presents.

FOOD

Many of the foods we enjoy during the holidays can be poisonous to pets or cause serious health problems. Garlic, onions, grapes, raisins, avocado, hops,

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ABOUT CVESC

For more than 35 years, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center has been caring for pets when they need us most. First opened solely as an emergency facility, today CVESC is a comprehensive, state-of-the-art emergency, specialty and critical care facility. We partner with your family veterinarian to provide care for your pet.

We offer expert emergency care and board certified veterinary specialists in the areas of:

*Cardiology / Dentistry / Dermatology
Diagnostic Imaging / Internal Medicine
Neurology and Neurosurgery / Oncology
Ophthalmology / Surgery*

Payment is due at the time of service. If your pet needs to be hospitalized, a deposit covering a partial cost of the care plan is required. The balance is due when your pet is discharged. CVESC accepts cash, Approved Electronic Checks, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express and CareCredit.

bones, fat trimmings, macadamia nuts, raw meat, raw eggs, yeast and other human foods can cause trouble for your pet. Pets that get into the garbage can suffer garbage intoxication. Resulting health problems can range from diarrhea to death.

FREEZING TEMPERATURES

Chicago's winters can be difficult for pets. Exposure to cold temperatures for too long can lead to frostbite or hypothermia. Be sure to monitor your pet's exposure to the outdoors. Keep cats inside and don't be shy about putting a warm coat or sweater on a short-haired dog. If you are uncomfortable in the cold, so is your pet.

PLANTS

Many plants that are popular during the holiday season can make pets sick if nibbled or eaten. Plants that are likely to cause problems for cats and dogs include amaryllis, azaleas, chrysanthemums, evergreens, ivy, juniper, holly and mistletoe. For more information, go to www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control.

SWEET TREATS.

Even in small doses, chocolate can be poisonous to pets, especially dark chocolate and baking chocolate. Xylitol, an artificial sweetener found in gum and some candy, is toxic to dogs. It can lead to a drop in blood sugar, liver damage and death. If you suspect your pet has eaten candy or gum with Xylitol, contact us immediately.

If you encounter a pet emergency and your veterinarian is unavailable, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is open 24-hours a day, every day of the year. We are ready to provide emergency, critical and specialty care to Chicago area cats and dogs.

CVESC IN THE COMMUNITY

CVESC's commitment to pets extends beyond the walls of our facility. Throughout the year, CVESC and its staff support various organizations and events that help improve the lives of dogs and cats throughout the Chicago area. In 2011, CVESC sponsored:

- Friends of Animal Care and Control *Big Night*
- Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society *It's Raining Cats & Dogs*

- Chicago Canine Rescue's *Mutt Strut*
- Greyhound Rescue

CVESC veterinarians also conducted a free, two-day continuing education program for Chicago area veterinarians and their support staff. This program is part of our ongoing effort to work closely with your primary care veterinarian to provide the best possible care for your cat or dog.

MEET OUR TEAM

Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center has approximately 150 employees. Of those, nearly 100 work in our emergency and critical care center. Others cover the specialty areas of Cardiology, Dentistry, Dermatology, Diagnostic Imaging, Internal Medicine, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Oncology, Ophthalmology and Surgery.



Jim Hardiman, DVM, is the most recent veterinarian to join the emergency staff of Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center (CVESC). A native

of Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, Dr. Hardiman received a B.S. in Biology at the University of Iowa and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of Illinois.

Dr. Hardiman joined CVESC from The Animal Medical Center of New York City, which like CVESC, is a highly regarded pet emergency and specialty center. He provided routine and emergency care

to companion animals. "I am pleased to join the dedicated staff of CVESC," said Dr. Hardiman. "I enjoy working in such a comprehensive, technologically advanced emergency center. It's great to have all the resources needed to care for pets in one place."

When not at CVESC, Dr. Hardiman enjoys hiking, playing golf, the Chicago White Sox and spending time with his nine-year-old black lab, Reilly. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, and the International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society.



COMMON PET EMERGENCIES

Sometimes it's difficult to know whether your pet's situation is an emergency or not. Since 1975 we have been treating pets in crisis and understand how stressful emergency situations can be for you and your pet.

If you're not certain whether or not your pet needs emergency care, please don't hesitate to contact us. Our trained staff will help you decide if your pet needs immediate attention. Here is a list of situations that should be considered emergencies for your pet and require immediate attention:

- *Bleeding that does not stop*
- *Bloated, distended, swollen or painful abdomen*
- *Difficulty breathing*
- *Falls, hit-by-cars, large wounds, broken bones*
- *Inability to deliver puppies or kittens*
- *Inability to urinate or defecate*
- *Inflammation, swelling or other irritation to the eyes*
- *Ingestion of dangerous foods, plants, bones, poison or foreign materials*
- *Lameness*
- *Loss of balance or consciousness*
- *Pain*
- *Penetrating wounds*
- *Pupils that remain dilated*
- *Seizures*
- *Severe hives or severe itching*
- *Staggering, stumbling, head-tilted, sudden blindness*
- *Vomiting or diarrhea with blood or violent episodes*



CVESC is located near the intersection of Belmont, Clybourn and Western in Chicago's Roscoe Village neighborhood and is open seven days a week, every day of the year.