



The Way Home

PHR Calendars for sale!



**DON'T
MISS
OUT!**

**Pre-order
now ...
they are
going
fast!!!!**

As we enter the holiday season, thoughts of “what to buy?” for family and friends becomes a priority in everyone’s mind. We all want to find that “perfect gift,” and often struggle with our decisions. The Holidays are not that far away when you think about it ... Thanksgiving is less than 25 days away; Christmas is 50 days from now! Well, here is a solution! PapHaven’s annual calendar! This beautiful calendar features photos of PapHaven alumni ... unwanted dogs who have found wonderful forever homes. This would be a must-have gift for anyone who fosters, rescues, or owns papillon or pap-mix pooches. Place your orders for the calendar at <http://www.papauction.info/calendar/>.



Calendar pre-ordering has begun. Costs are:

Wall Calendar - \$28 shipping included.

Multiple wall calendars (up to 5)
\$8 shipping added.

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Multiple desk calendars (up to 5)
\$8 shipping added.

Questions? Contact Jan at jorolan@catc.net

**2,140+ rescued & counting!
Celebrating 17 years!**

You are a part of our life-saving mission

Once upon a time, a long time ago, a Papillon rescue group was born in Aug. 2003. This month, PapHaven will be 17+ years old. **During this time we have rescued over 2,140 papillons and rehomed 1,929 so far.** There is a certain sadness for the number of deaths experienced, however, this is the product of taking already sick and injured Paps into our loving group. We loved them, cared for them, and sanctuaried them until their last breath. Our eternal gratitude to all of you who have helped this organization along this sometimes trying and rocky path to what we are today a wonderful caring group for the Papillons and Pap-Mix dogs.

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Pet Winter Safety: Prepping Your Pet for Winter Weather

<https://pets.webmd.com/features/pet-winter-safety-prepping-your-pet-for-winter-weather#1>

more minimal, “sort of like wearing a T-shirt when it’s below freezing.” Your pet’s toes, nose, and ears are even more vulnerable to chilly temps.

That’s why, in winter, pets need protection from extreme temperatures, which includes warm, dry, draft-free shelter; plenty of food; and lots of water. Take precautions any time the temperatures drop below freezing, says Jean Sonnenfeld, DVM, an Atlanta veterinarian. And remember, if it’s too cold for you, it’s probably too cold for your pet.

Should Your Pet Dress for the Weather?

We don coats to face the frigid temps, so it seems natural to think that coats for dogs and cats might offer them similar protection from the elements. The vets we talked to agreed – to a point.

Coats to protect cats from cold weather are probably not a good idea, say pros we talked to. “Cats generally won’t tolerate them well,” Sonnenfeld tells WebMD, adding that pet clothes are probably most useful for your pooch.

Yet, as cute as your dog’s cold weather coat may be, don’t put clothes on your pet and then shoo him outside to wander without supervision, says Susan G. Wynn, DVM, a veterinary nutritionist in Georgia. Not only does your pet risk frostbite and other danger if his canine clothes get wet, he may “try to get out of the sweater or coat and get caught in a way that makes suffocation a risk.” Monitoring your dressed-up dog is essential.

While you’re at it, keep an eye on your pup’s pads too, Sonnenfeld says. “It does not take long for snow to freeze on their paws and cause problems.” Salt-spread sidewalks can also imperil your pooch’s pads by burning them. If you go the route of protective booties for your dog, try slipping baby socks onto his paws to get him used to the feel of something on his feet. Once your pooch accepts the socks, he’s probably ready for booty bling.

A quick note about dog boots: Be sure they fit snugly but not too tight. Otherwise you risk cutting off your dog’s circulation and inviting frostbite.

Winter Safety for Very Young & Older Pets

Dog boots, cute coats, flashy collars, and leashes – these are all meant to be used with healthy, adult pets in winter.

Puppies and kittens as well as older dogs and cats shouldn’t be outside no matter how well-dressed. That’s because they just don’t have the fat, metabolism, or the full fur coat they need to stay warm when temperatures plunge.

When it’s cold or wet out, veterinarians say it’s vital to keep younger, older, and sick pets indoors.

Tips for When the Temperature Drops

Providing all the cold weather needs for indoor-outdoor pets in winter is usually easy, but it can be tougher for outdoor-only pets like abandoned or feral cats. So when the weather outside is frightful, here’s how you can protect your feline and canine friends from winter’s bite.

Tip # 1: Beware of cats sheltering under cars. In cold weather, cats will seek shelter anywhere they can. Even if you haven’t run your car in days, a cat may still seek the nominal protection found in your car’s engine compartment.

That’s why McGeorge says to, “Always bang on the hood of the car if it is parked outside or even in a garage if your cat has access to it.” You can also try giving your car’s horn a quick toot or two to shoo kitties away.

Tip # 2: Antifreeze is deadly. Antifreeze is thick, very sweet, and can be irresistible to some pets. “During the winter, the most common toxicity we see is from antifreeze,” Sonnenfeld says. And

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When the weather outside is frightful, these winter pet tips can keep your precious pets snug, safe, and warm.

If you have a dog that spends most of its time romping in your backyard, or a kitty that whiles away the day in a sunny patch on the front porch, winter’s arrival may be a rude awakening. Sure, your precious pets are covered in fur. But many just aren’t equipped to be out in frigid temperatures for prolonged periods.

So how can you make sure your four-legged friends are warm and well-cared for when the mercury dips? WebMD talked to veterinarians and pet owners and got their top tips on winter safety for pets, from protecting pets that spend a lot of time outdoors to tips on getting your pooch to potty outside when wintry winds blow.

Keeping Warm: Fur Isn’t Flawless

We may admire our pets’ plush coats, but as beautiful as fur is, it’s not a perfect insulator, especially when it’s very cold.

In winter, pets can suffer from the weather extremes “for the same reason that mountain climbers can get hypothermia no matter what type of protective clothing they are wearing,” says Oregon veterinarian Marla J. McGeorge, DVM. “Mammalian systems for heat retention and regulation can be overwhelmed by excessive cold.”

And, if an animal’s coat gets wet, the fur loses much of its insulating ability, McGeorge tells WebMD. For cats and dogs with short fur, the protection is even

Pet Winter Safety

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it doesn't take lapping up much antifreeze to kill an animal. Antifreeze can be deadly to a pet if the pet is not treated aggressively soon after ingesting it.

"Cats can be poisoned by very small amounts," McGeorge tells WebMD. For example, a cat can be poisoned just by walking through spilled antifreeze and then licking its paws during cleaning. If you suspect your cat or dog has been exposed to antifreeze, don't wait to see if it acts sick, McGeorge says. Take it to a veterinarian for treatment immediately.

To avoid antifreeze exposure:

- Be sure all antifreeze containers are tightly closed and put away on a high shelf.
- Make sure your car is not leaking antifreeze. "It takes a very small amount to make animals sick," Sonnenfield says.

Tip # 3: Walking pets in winter? Get reflective. During winter's darker days and longer nights, pets can be hard to see. That's why Sonnenfield recommends reflective collars. Some message board members also give a thumbs up to collars, tags, and leashes embedded with LED lights and blinkers.

Tip # 4: Keep your pet safe during the holidays. Winter holidays bring fun and family, but they also invite exposure to items potentially toxic or dangerous to your pet. Sonnenfield recommends keeping pets away from chocolate, plants, holly berries and leaves, and tinsel. Call the Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 or your vet right away if you think your pet has eaten something dangerous.

Preparing a Warm Space for Your Dog

For a pooch that spends a lot of time outside, you'll need to take the same steps to protect your dog in cold weather as those taken for an outdoor-only cat, including:

- Making sure your dog has warm, dry, draft-free, covered shelter, preferably in a garage, shed, or beneath a carport or porch awning.

- Warming that shelter with bedding you check daily – wet bedding can be fatal to a pet. Look into purchasing electric heating products specifically made for a dog's use.
- Being sure that fresh, unfrozen water is available to your dog every day. You can find inexpensive warmers to keep your pet's water from freezing.
- Providing your dog plenty of food; pets need even more calories in the winter to help them keep warm.

Always bring your dog inside when the temperatures turn particularly harsh, the pros say. "If you wouldn't want to be out in those conditions in just your clothes and a coat for too long, your pet won't want to be either," pet owner and Utah social worker Sherri G. says.



Encouraging Potty Breaks

When the snow is deep and the temps plunge, no one wants to go potty outdoors. So how can you encourage your four-legged friend to go outside when the need strikes? WebMD pet message board members and others in the know offer these quick tips:

Shovel it. Keep a small area in the yard shoveled clear of snow; or at least be sure the snow is only an inch or two deep. Then encourage your pet to use this spot. It helps if you shovel a path to this snow-free area.

Buy booties. If your dog is bothered by the snow or ice touching its feet, snow boots donned just before the potty break may make the outdoor journey – and walking your pet in cold weather – much easier. A bonus: Pet booties should help the house stay cleaner, too.

Stay close. When it's really cold out, members suggest waiting by the door while your pooch uses its outdoor potty, then letting him back in as soon as he's done.

Make an indoor potty. When the weather outside is truly frightful and you really don't want to let Fido or Fifi out, you do have indoor options for your pet's toilet needs:

- Pet pee pads resemble a flat, unfolded diaper and are an especially effective option for small, older, or sick dogs. Most pet supply stores carry a range of pee pad sizes, from toy-dog tiny to extra large.
- Indoor pee patches consist of small swathes of pseudo grass topping a broad, hollow tray into which urine collects each time a dog goes potty. You can find several inexpensive options with a quick online search.
- Some smaller dogs can also be litter box-trained; even mature dogs can be taught to use a box inside. Be patient during the process, suggest message board members. Training your pup to use a litter box doesn't happen overnight.

Knowing Signs of Frostbite & Hypothermia

When cats and dogs are exposed to the cold for too long, their body temperature – which is usually between 101°F and 102.5°F – can drop fatally. Here's what you need to know as you keep a close eye on your pets in winter.

Hypothermia Symptoms in Pets

- violent shivering, followed by listlessness
- weak pulse
- lethargy
- muscle stiffness
- problems breathing
- lack of appetite
- rectal temperature below 98°F
- coma
- cardiac arrest

Hypothermia Treatment

Wrap your pet in a warm blanket or coat (you can warm blankets and coats in the dryer for a few minutes).

- Bring your pet into a warm room.
- Give your pet a solution of four teaspoons honey or sugar dissolved in warm water to drink. You can also put 1-2 teaspoons of corn syrup on

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Trick or Treaters

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Momma says they are such good sports about costumes!



Millie (above) is just as cute as can be!



Happy Howl-o-ween from Katelyn & Ella!



Phil decided that the “monster” was the way to go! He certainly doesn’t look like a monster to me!



Bleu and his foster sister Beanie were out for a stroll in Yosemite with their Mom on Halloween day!



Have photos and stories to share, forward them via Facebook at

PapHaven Rescue – <https://www.facebook.com/paphaven>

PapHaven Alumni – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/647669488729049>

or to PHR directly at AdoptersPaps@yahoo.com

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR DOGS PAWS IN THE WINTER

Winter roads and sidewalks can be hazardous for your dog. Make sure you're taking good care of his paws!

If your dog has furry feet, **trim the fur** that grows between his pads to prevent ice buildup



After walks around the neighborhood, **rinse or wipe** your dog's paws to remove any salt



Rub an all natural **paw salve** on to help soothe dry, cracked pads



Consider using **dog booties** to protect his paws



Use an **ice-melter** that's **safe** and won't burn your dog's paws



Solo says come on ... we got to get to our next stop! Solo is out cruisin' Texas this fall.



PHR Alumni Scotty (left) & Holly say "Happy HOWL-o-ween!!"



We like to dress up says Leo (above) and Mila (below)! Although Leo doesn't look like he's having a good time.



Pet Winter Safety

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the gums if your pet is too weak to drink. This provides an immediate energy boost.

- Place warm, towel-wrapped water bottles against your pet's abdomen or at her armpits and chest, then wrap her in a blanket. Do not use hair dryers, heating pads, or electric blankets to warm up a hypothermic pet as this may result in burns or cause surface blood vessels to dilate, which compromises circulation to vital organs.
- Call your veterinarian immediately.

The best way to manage hypothermia is to avoid it. Always provide warm, dry shelter for pets when they're outdoors.

Frostbite Signs in Pets

Frostbite happens when a part of your pet's body freezes. For cats, that may involve the paws, tail, or ears; for dogs, the tail, ears, foot pads, or scrotum. Severe winter weather, especially when windy or humid, can lead to frostbite. Watch for:

- pale, gray, or blue skin at first
- red, puffy skin later
- pain in ears, tail, or paws when touched
- skin that stays cold
- shriveled skin

Frostbite Treatment

- Apply warm (not hot) water for at least 20 minutes to the frostbitten area. Do not use hair dryers, heating pads, or electric blankets to warm up a frostbitten pet as this may cause burns.
- Handle the affected areas very carefully; don't rub or massage them as you could cause permanent damage.
- Call your vet immediately.

It doesn't take much to keep our pets safe when things get frosty. Just like us, our feline and canine friends need shelter, warmth, food, and care. When winter's chill sends you scurrying indoors, don't forget your furry four-footed pals and their simple needs this season.

Understand Your Pets Better: 10 Pet Behaviors Explained

<https://cutedogy.com/understand-your-dog-better-10-dog-behaviors-explained/>

Here are some answers to things I'll bet have been keeping you up at night, Why does your dog do this, ten behaviors explained. Dogs are friendly straightforward and open, and they don't have that air of mystery that cats do but dogs have their fair share of baffling behaviors, it's often hard for humans to understand canine social cues and Body Language.

Have you ever wondered why your beloved pet wants to chase its tail, hump legs, and sniff other dogs but? You're not alone. This article will give you some insight into the life of your dog. Counting down from number 10.

10. Why Does My Dog Sniff Other Dogs' Butts?

Dogs are obviously completely different from people, well people perceive the world mostly through their eyes. The smell is a dog's dominant sense, think about this, you only see your dog sniffing another dog's butt, but in fact, your pet is collecting the tailed information about their new acquaintance dogs, have anal glands that can give away much personal information, their gender, and reproductive status, how healthy they are, and even what they had for breakfast. The smell of these glands admit is unique to each dog, just like a human fingerprint. A dog's sense of smell is 10,000 times better than a human's, so imagine how much information they can get from another dog's whereat, in the world of dogs sniffing bottoms is a socially accepted and approved way you say hello. The same action also answers a number of other questions where are you from, are you going to be my friend, who's that dude holding your leash, well maybe not that one.

9. Why Does My Dog Walk In Circles Before Lying Down?

Have you ever had an unstoppable desire to tell your dog that it doesn't matter how many times they walk in a circle before they finally lie down? Because their bed won't become more comfortable. Your dog isn't the blame for such behavior, this habit resigns in their genes, scientists

believe that this little ritual is leftover from one creature that was half wolf and half dog, lived in the wilderness. Before falling asleep they nestled by walking around pat-down grass leaves and small branches and other debris to make a nice sleeping spot. However if your dog circling seems prolonged or excessive, you should consult that although rare this may be a symptom of obsessive-compulsive disorder. However, if the dog keeps circling to the left it may just be a fan of NASCAR racing.

8. Why Does My Dog Hump Legs, Objects & Other Dogs?

This scenario is familiar to a lot of dog owners, your dog whether it's a boy or a girl mount another dog during the walk in the park, humps their favorite stuffed toy, or even tries to hump your leg. My dog Riley still does that, and he's 9 years old, will fit say that humping or mounting is it typical sexual position for dogs. If a dog is not neutered or spayed and younger than one year old, this is exactly what the dog is seeking, some form of a complex. However when a dog is fixed and mature, this



Panda continues to succeed in scent work! She had a wonderful time at the Houston trials where she earned a few new Qs, new placements, and a new SHDNE title! Congrats!!!!

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Understand Your Pet Better: 10 Pet Behaviors Explained *(continued from pg. 6)*

behavior can signal a desire to show dominance, a dog may also be overexcited or simply seeking your attention. Humping is also a perfectly acceptable play gesture in the Canine World, nobody is to call dogs that such games are unacceptable. So if you feel embarrassed by your dog's behavior and want to prevent it, try to redirect your pet's attention with a toy or a treat, as soon as they start making something.

7. Why Does My Dog Drag Their Butt On The Floor?

Many dog owners will recognize the terrifying feeling when their dog moves across the living room dragging their butt on the floor, and they can't do anything to stop this trail. What's happening to my dog? They ask themselves is it even normal, well as normal as anything your dog does.

However everything depends on the context, one possible explanation is that your dog is just defecated in the seems the best way for them to clean their rear end, other reasons might not be so innocent seriously cleaning their butt on the carpet is innocent? Your pet may be suffering from health problems such as a tapeworm, or problems with their anal glands, in the latter case these glands get impacted and have to be emptied of fluid.

6. Why Does My Dog Chase His Tail?

Wouldn't you run after your tail if you had one? It looks like so much fun, in addition, this is how your dog gets rid of excess energy. Dogs are playful by nature, and often entertain themselves by chasing their tail. Being smart and social, dogs may notice that when they are running after their tail, their master pays more attention, that's why they might start to do this more often.

However other reasons for tail-chasing may not be so cheerful if a dog is injured,

perhaps after getting their tail slammed in the door, they will try to reach their tail to ease the pain. A dog may suffer from parasite bites or have a skin irritation. Also, dogs that run after their tails can have a psychological issue or anxiety. In extreme cases, excessive tail-chasing can be a symptom of obsessive-compulsive disorder.

5. Why Does My Dog Cock His Head While Looking At Me?

When you whistle make funny little noises or speak in a high-pitched voice, your dog demonstrates one of the cutest behaviors ever, they tilt their head. There is no solid proof of why dogs do this, but behaviorists believe that dogs may just be trying to make sense of what they hear, or they might find hope to distinguish keywords such as fun, fetch or walk. Or maybe your pet is simply trying to determine where the sound is coming from. But if the dog keeps their head to the side all

the time, they most likely have a health problem.

4. Why Does My Dog Eat Grass?

How many people wonder what has gone wrong when they see their beloved dog munching on fresh green grass like a cow, this may seem worrying. Is my pet sick? Bored? Starving?! Suddenly a vegetarian? In fact, there are several reasons why a dog can eat something that isn't suited to their diet. First of all, this may be a sign of boredom, especially when a dog is still quite young. Secondly, eating grass may improve your dog's digestion and treat intestinal worms, you don't know about that, but your pet does. Perhaps your dog feels the need for fiber, or they may simply like the taste of fresh grass.

3. Why Does My Dog Twitch Her Leg When Scratched?

If you're a dog owner, you're proba-

bly an expert in scratching, petting, and stroking. Have you ever noticed how your dog's back legs start to kick when you pet one particular spot? This kicking movement is involuntary, is caused by the nerves that are connected to the dog's spinal cord. These nerves send a message to your pet's leg muscles to jerk to get rid of an irritant. Your dog's body is simply mistaking you for an itch that needs a scratch.

2. Why Does My Dog Howl?

Lots of people know how scary a lovely day can turn when a dog starts to howl. Wolves make a low pitch loud sound to send messages to pack members or, to enforce their rank. But why do domesticated canines feel the need to do this?

Behaviorists believe that well howling may be passed on to Modern dogs from their wild ancestors, This activity is also most likely simply rewarding and necessary for dogs. Well, I can get my dog starts howling by playing my trumpet, in this case, I think he's just being critical.

1. Why Does My Dog Stare At Me?

If your pet eyes never leave you, the chances are high that they are just waiting for you to give them a treat, or show them your affection. After all, who can resist those puppy dog eyes, but sometimes staring can be a sign of aggression, that's why, before starting back, you should make sure that the dog isn't scared of feeling threatened.



Amber



Scotty is getting into the fall spirit and enjoying some time playing in the leaves.

Thanksgiving with Pets

<https://topdogtips.com/thanksgiving-and-dogs/>

When guests are coming to town and festivities are planned, it's important to remember that your dog needs special attention to make his holiday enjoyable and hazard-free. Keep it safe and make it fun for your dog this Thanksgiving with these dos and don't for pet parents.

Very soon your home will be filled with family and food. You'll be watching a Thanksgiving Dog Show, having a meal with your loved ones, cooking delicious meals for them and some homemade Thanksgiving treats for your dogs. But, Holidays can also be very hectic, and they can be extremely stressful for pets. Of course you'll want to focus on your guests, but you can't forget about your pup and his needs.

You may even be traveling with your dog for the holiday, which can lead to a whole other list of safety concerns. No matter how you're celebrating this Thanksgiving, be sure you're paying just as much attention to your Fido as you do every other day of the year.

Making Thanksgiving Fun

DO supervise children at all times with your dog. While your nieces and nephews may be delighted with your pet and are trying hard to be gentle, many of them (especially those who are less familiar with pets, and your dog in particular) may be unintentionally rough or handle your dog in a way that bothers him. For everyone's safety and comfort, make sure that your dog isn't left unsupervised with children.

DON'T expect more of your dog than he can handle. For a dog who's used to spending a significant amount of time alone, or just with your family, it may be overwhelming to find himself in a room full of chattering relatives and active children. Find time to let him be alone if you possibly can so that he doesn't panic.

DO consider setting up a special room for your dog to play in during the meal. You'll be busy refilling drinks, carving the turkey, clearing away plates, and slicing pie. You'll have a much easier

time without your dog trying to get your attention the entire time.

Set up a comfortable bed or crate, your dog's favorite toys, and perhaps try some relaxing music. Test this ahead of time to make sure that it doesn't have the opposite effect and make your dog bark.

DO include your dog in the sporting activities. While everyone's tossing around the football, you can engage your pooch with a frisbee or rubber ball. Make sure to get one that's hard enough to bounce, but soft enough to be safe for his teeth and jaw.



DO make the time for a walk or a game of fetch, especially if the weather's good. After a hearty meal, some exercise will be just what your dog needs to recharge. It's also a good idea to wear your dog out in the morning before guests arrive so he won't be as tempted to jump on everyone who walks through the door.

DON'T let your dog snack all day long. Even if the treats are healthy, your dog can get pretty sick if he has too much to eat. Instead, get him a dental chew or an interactive toy to keep him busy while everyone else is watching a movie.

DO get your dog a special toy to enjoy while your guests are talking and watching television. To make it extra special, pick a Thanksgiving themed toys for your pup. If the dog prefers a favorite toy or

game that you already have, make sure to get it out for him to play with. This can be a stressful time for him and you want him to be aware that you know he's doing his best.

Dog Food Safety

DO ask your guests (or relatives) not to sneak your dog food from the table. You've already made plenty of Thanksgiving appropriate foods for your pet, so use that.

DON'T expect your dog to entertain himself when the counter tops are covered in tempting food. Locking him in another room while delicious aromas waft his way will make him over-excited and frustrated. Instead, find a friend or family member to play with him while you're finishing up the details of the big meal.

DO prepare your dog something he really enjoys. There are hundreds of ideas online for homemade Thanksgiving dinner for dogs you can cook while preparing food for your guests. If you need some inspiration, check out these Thanksgiving doggy dinner recipes with healthy ingredients that are likely around on that day.

DO give your dog his special meal before everyone else sits down at the table. This way his tummy will be full and he'll be less tempted to beg for scraps.

DO keep your dog entertained while everyone else is feasting with a toy that hides a treat, a food-filled KONG, or a long-lasting stuffed bone.

DON'T give your dog table scraps. It is frequently bad for dogs and can make them ill very quickly. Some things you'll want to avoid, particularly common Thanksgiving foods that will around on the day but should be kept away from your dog:

- Rich, fatty foods like turkey skin and gravy
- Filling from the turkey like onions and sage
- Grapes, raisins, and currants
- Nuts, especially macadamia nuts
- Chocolate
- Alcohol
- Coffee

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Thanksgiving with Pets (continued from pg. 8)

DO feel free to offer your dog limited options from the Thanksgiving table that are good for him, including:

- Skinless, boneless cooked turkey
- Steamed, plain green beans
- Steamed, plain carrots
- Plain mashed sweet potato, pumpkin, or butternut squash
- Gravy free of onions, spices, herbs, and sweeteners

DO watch out for non-food (or non-edible) hazards that he may be able to reach, like the following common Thanksgiving items:

- **Baking strings** – used to secure the turkey and can cause obstructions if your dog gets a hold of them.
- **Cooked turkey bones** – can splinter, causing your dog serious problems

that may require surgery or could even cause death.

- **Corn cobs** – can be a major choking hazard for your dog.
- **Holiday decorations** – very dangerous for dogs; flowers can be ingested, candles can fall and start a fire, and flameless candles with batteries can be swallowed. It's fine to enjoy holiday decor, but make sure that it's out of the reach of your pets.
- **Turkey brine** – should be discarded immediately after use. This salty, sugary solution may make your turkey moist and juicy, but if your dog drinks it he can get salt toxicosis, which results in brain swelling.

DON'T leave trash cans open. Open trash cans are an easy target for your dog to get into trouble quickly. Even a small



I don't think this little guy is one of ours, but I just had to share ... Recently Poco celebrated his 17th birthday!

dog can knock an open trash can over and get themselves into trouble quickly. Close all trash cans and take tempting-smelling trash out of the room where your dog will be spending time so they don't paw it all day long.

DO keep your vet's phone number and the Pet Poison Helpline number close at hand in case an accident does occur. You won't want to spend a single second looking it up if your pet is in trouble.

Ways to get your Pap to take meds

http://www.marthastewart.com/featured/PillsPooch4WaysToTake2017Milkbone?sm_t=lpmzMPs

Taking medicine is never fun. So when it comes to your pooch consuming a liquid or solid pill, the task can be down right daunting. However, there are some tricks to get Fido to take his meds without a fuss.

Meal time: You can try mixing the medicine in with your dog's breakfast or dinner, so long as it's okay to take with food

(check with your vet, or review the dosing instructions first). Normally, the pill masquerading works so well that most pets never suspect a thing. With any luck, he'll lap it up with the rest of his breakfast or dinner without any suspicions whatsoever. *Bone-Appetit!*

Treat them afterwards: Some dogs are on strict diets due to health problems, so it's just not realistic to hide their meds within foods they'll love. Once the pill is swallowed, an allowed treat and several kisses and belly rubbing should come next. This way your pup looks forward to

medicine time, as he'll associate it with being showered with love.

Pill pouches: Some pet brands make treats, like Milk-Bones® Pill Pouches, where you can slip and conceal your pup's pill inside. Your dog will think pill time is treat time, and he'll be excited to take his meds every day.

Liquid medicine: Giving your pet a liquid form of medicine can be tricky. Gently pull the side of his mouth open and squirt the liquid in towards the back of his tongue. It's recommended that you do not tilt or shake his head afterwards to prevent choking. Praises and kisses afterwards will be appreciated!

Editor's note: *My paps took pills for years. I do not find liquid meds to be the answer for them ... I think I end up with more of it on my clothes than they actually got inside their body ... LOL!*

But over the last few years I have found that Bil-Jac® brand soft treat that my dogs loved! It makes giving pills a dream ... fold the pill inside and proof, its gone! Just an FYI, if you need a new suggestion!



How to Pet-Proof Your Christmas Tree

<https://petcentral.chewy.com/pet-parenting-holidays-how-to-pet-proof-your-christmas-tree/>

Trimming the tree is one of those essential Christmas traditions that makes the holiday season so special. Unfortunately, dogs and Christmas trees are not always the best – or safest – combination. The tree itself, as well as the surrounding Christmas decorations, can be dangerous and even deadly in some cases, according to vets and pet safety experts.

Of course, we want to share all the wonderfulness of the holiday season with our furry friends. Keep the magic in Christmas by dog-proofing the Christmas tree with dog-friendly decorations and by using physical barriers and training cues to keep your dog away from the Christmas tree.

Consider an Artificial Tree

“I don’t think there’s a specific type of tree that’s more safe or less,” says Jason Nicholas, BVetMed (Hons), president and chief medical officer of The Preventive Vet in Portland, Oregon, an author, educator and former ER vet. “You can make the case that an artificial tree is safer, because they’re not going to drop needles, and they don’t need the water in the base.”

A dog who ingests fallen needles is at risk for “digestive punctures,” and chemicals added to tree water can prove “lethal” to pets, he says. If you do opt for a live tree, be sure to keep it well-watered to prevent the needles from falling off – but skip the additives, Dr. Nicholas advises. A decorative Christmas tree stand cover can block access to the water completely and add some style to your setup.

Stabilize the Tree

No matter what type of tree you choose, make sure it is stable enough so your dog can’t accidentally knock it over.

“You want to make sure you have a really sturdy tree base, so it isn’t leaning,” Dr. Nicholas says. “You could further secure it by tying it to the wall, or the ceiling ... or even use your furniture to



your advantage. If you have a bigger dog, you can sort of put the tree behind the couch in a little corner.”

Section Off the Space

Even if you don’t want to tuck your tree behind the sofa, you have options for how to keep a dog away from the Christmas tree. The simplest, perhaps, is a pet gate.

A Christmas tree dog fence or gate with vertical slats, rather than horizontal ones, will be the most effective.

“Depending on the size of the tree and the weight of a dog, a tree can get knocked over on the dog,” she explains, emphasizing the need to keep dogs away from Christmas trees. “There could be a limb injury, sprain or a fracture. If you have a little Shih Tzu and an 8-foot tree, who’s going to win?”

A Christmas tree dog fence, such as Arf Pets Free-Standing Walk-Through Wood Dog & Cat Gate, can help keep your pet away from both the tree and all the breakable ornaments, gifts and even the water that can pose a risk to dogs, agrees Francine Coughlin, CPDT-KA, IAABC, a dog trainer and behavior consultant who founded Bark N Roll in Reading, Massachusetts. She also suggests keeping an unsupervised dog away from the tree by simply closing the whole room off with a baby or pet gate or closing a door if available.

Train Your Dog to Stay Away from the Tree

Coughlin teaches a “place cue,” essentially training the dogs to go to a certain spot or mat when asked, even with the enormous distraction of a “giant blinking tree in your living room.”

“You would teach them to go do a down, stay – go to your place,” she says.

Coughlin also allows the dogs to initially “check it out” and sniff the tree.

“I don’t want to punish them for being exploratory, but I want to call them away before they try to jump at the tree or tear apart the gifts,” she says.

Use Dog-Safe Tree Decorations

So, what are the best decorations for a dog proof Christmas tree? The answer can vary, depending on each individual dog.

“You’ll know what your dog’s kryptonite is. You might need to forgo certain types of decorations,” Coughlin says. “It’s their home, too, so I would take that into consideration when decorating my tree.”

Plushies, for example, might be a safe option, says Dr. Nicholas, or they might just look like a chew toy to your pet.

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How to Dog-Proof Your Christmas Tree

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Plastic ornaments are less breakable, and plastic hooks or twist ties are a good replacement for metal hooks, he says.

Christmas Tree Decorations to Avoid

Dogs and Christmas trees don't always mix, and the safety hazards don't end at the tree itself. Plenty of festive décor can be hazardous to dogs, Dr. Nicholas says. These include:



- Anything edible, including chocolate, which is toxic to dogs
- Glass
- Bells
- Metal hooks
- Strings of popcorn (the string, if swallowed, can cause severe intestine issues)
- Salt dough ornaments (which can cause salt poisoning in dogs)
- Tinsel

Candy canes or other items made with xylitol, a sugar substitute, are another hidden holiday danger. "For dogs, it is ridiculously toxic," Dr. Nicholas says.

Moore suggests decorating with Christmas cards and putting the most fragile and breakable ornaments on display out of dogs' reach. Christmas lights can cause a host of issues too, including fires and strangulation. Arden suggests coating

them with petroleum jelly or a pet deterrent spray to discourage chewers. Fur Goodness Sake's Anti-Chew Bitter Spray, for example, has a bitter apple taste to deter dogs from chewing and can be used on electrical cords. Fake candles make a festive alternative, she adds.

Delay Placing Gifts Around the Christmas Tree

Experts agree: Don't set the gifts out until the last minute.

"I don't put any presents under the tree until Christmas Eve or Christmas morning – that's just way too tempting for my crew," says Coughlin, who shares her home with several dogs. "I keep them completely out of reach."

Keeping gifts hidden will save not only the presents but potentially also your pet's life.

"Dogs can out-smell us," says Arden, "so if your aunt left you a fruit cake or there's that box of chocolate that you don't know about, your dog knows it's there."

Don't forget cleanup, too, reminds Dr. Nicholas. The remains of the unwrapping frenzy, from ribbons, ties and even wrapped treats, could wind up as a blockage or other intestinal disaster. Have someone

come through with a trash bag to collect the debris, he says.

No one wants to zap the fun out of the holidays, but taking a few preventative steps to create a dog-proof Christmas tree might end up saving the season.

"I love the holidays and my pets love the holidays," Moore says. "I just want to make sure we're not spending it at the pet ER."

In some cases, that might mean skipping the Christmas tree altogether, especially if you have a new puppy or a particularly energetic dog, she adds.

"Do you want to end up at the pet emergency clinic because your dog has a cut paw or cuts to the mouth, or was drinking the water out of the tree stand, which can be deadly," Moore says. "We have enough stress for the holidays. Why add to it?"

Hanukkah pet-safety tips

<https://www.petsit.com/hanukkah-pet-safety-tips-from-pet-sitters-international#:~:text=Hanukkah%20treats%2C%20like%20latkes%20and,have%20even%20more%20dangerous%20consequences.>



For pet lovers celebrating Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, PSI offers these quick tips to ensure your pets remain healthy and happy during the eight-day celebration:

- To avoid your pet being burned or causing a fire hazard, ensure that your pet/s are confined away from the room containing the lit Menorah.
- Keep holiday game pieces, such as the dreidel, out of paw's reach from your pet to avoid accidental ingestion.
- Likewise, keep chocolate gold coins in a location that cannot be accessed by your pet/s. Not only can the theobromine and caffeine in the chocolate be toxic to your pets, the shiny foil wrapper can also cause intestinal issues if digested.
- Hanukkah treats, like latkes and sufganiyot (doughnuts), should also be kept away from pets. Ingestion could lead to a variety of gastrointestinal issues, including vomiting and diarrhea. Also, some ingredients can have even more dangerous consequences. The onions in latkes, for example, can cause Heinz body anemia in both cats and dogs.

Should any of the nightly celebrations keep you away from home during your pet's typical walk or potty-break time, PSI recommends using the services of a professional pet sitter. Pet owners can download a free pet-sitter interview checklist from the PSI website and search for local PSI-member pet sitters at [petsit.com/locate](https://www.petsit.com/locate).