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hts, decorations, good food... every year, when humans eelebrate the winter holidays, homes are filled with seasonal cheer. However, what may seem beautiful and harmless may pose hidden dangers for dogs. Pon't let an emergency spoil the dogtivities! Below are some common holiday hazards for dogs and ways to prevent or treat them.

Holiday Hazard	How to keep dogs safe
Yummy yet Dangerous Foods	The following can be toxic for canines: chocolate, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, garlic, onion, alcohol, caffeinated beverages, bread dough, and sugar-free candy and gum containing the artificial sweetener xylitol
I didn't know this about Regular Foods	I hate to pass this tidbit along, but despite tradition, bones should never be given to dogs. These bad-to-the-bone foods include even beef, ham, and other "regular" foods that are not considered toxic can cause illness.
New Treats and Toys	Even a dog-safe treat can cause stomach upset if it is new to a doggie tummy. A dog should only have one of these at a time (ideally, separated by a few days). If illness strikes after eating a holiday treat, it will be easier to trace the source and discontinue it. Also, check those new toys for sharp edges, pieces that can be chewed off, or other potential hazards. I like toys that squeak - but know I'm not supposed to eat the squeaker. Sometimes I have to be reminded though.
Plants	Hazardous plants include mistletoe, some evergreens (including some types of pine), and holly bushes and berries. Stay away from these plants!.Eat organic grass inside - haha.
Decorations	Tinsel, tree ornaments, ribbons, string, and garlands are some items that can be dangerous if eaten by dogs or cats. Just stay away from décor - this is especially hard for cats to do. Dogs have it more under control in my opinion! Hey - any electrical cords should be covered or out of reach!
Fire and Carbon Monoxide	On a cold winter night, I know dogs want to stay nice and warm, so their humans should monitor them near fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, candles, and portable heaters. Also, remind your human best friend to check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are functioning properly. Space heaters, furnaces, and idling cars (in a garage) can increase the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in dogs and humans.
Christmas Trees	Watch those holiday trees. Not me!, but other dogs may eat the needles (even from artificial trees) or drink water from the base of the tree, which can be toxic (especially if there are those doggone preservatives in it). Remember to stay away from electrical cords and decorative lights, too. We wouldn't want anything bad to happen. That would spoil your winter doggieland.

In many cases, if something toxic has been eaten or drunk, warning signs will include gastrointestinal problems, such as vomiting and diarrhea. Other signs may include tiredness and lack of appetite (you know **that** certainly indicates a terrific problem if a dog isn't eating!). If any of these signs are present, or if something dangerous has been eaten but no signs have shown up yet, it's a good idea to get a high tail it into your friendly vet.