

Holiday Decorations That Pose Dangers to Your Dogs

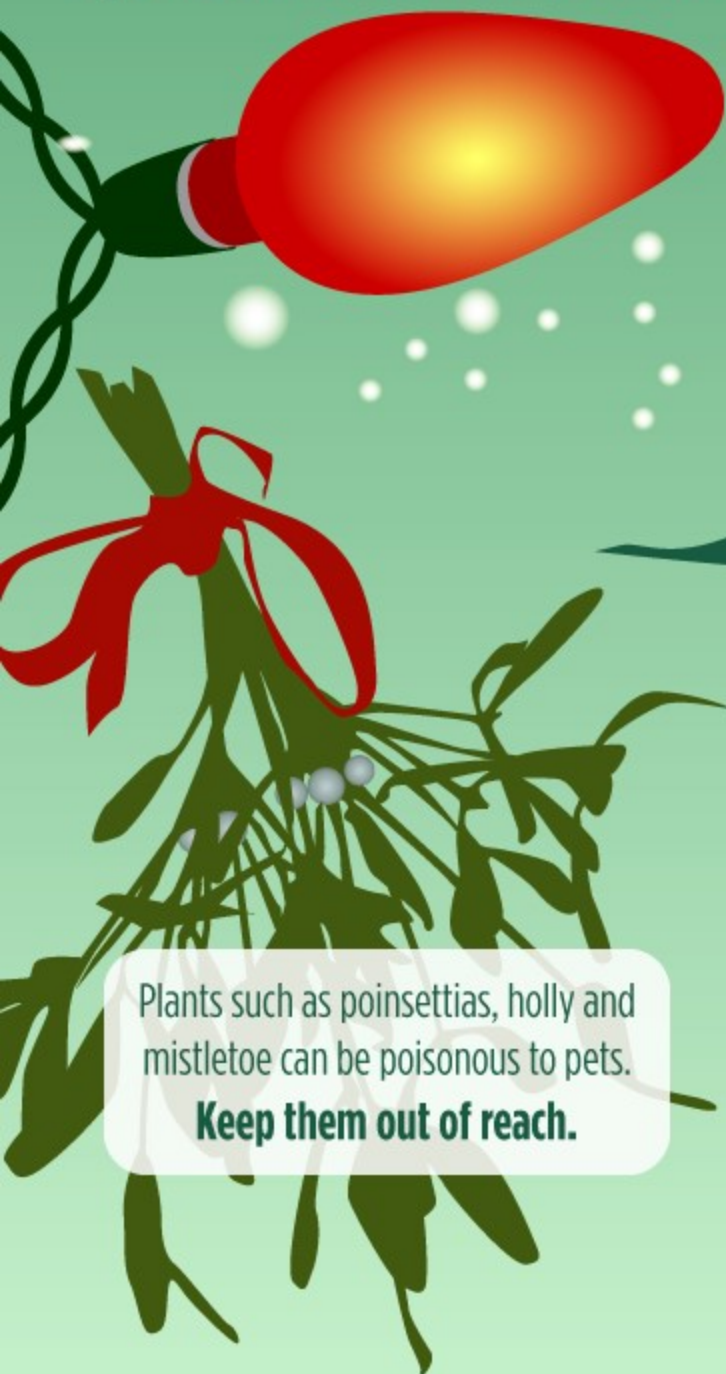
Tis' the season to deck the halls, but the AKC® warns pet owners of the dangers from many of the season's festive decorations. To keep your holidays free from emergency visits to the vet, the AKC offers the following tips to dog-proof your holidays.



Avoid using food, such as popcorn or cranberries in decorations. These can cause blockages, which often require surgery.

When decorating with holiday lights, remember that exposed indoor or outdoor wires could electrocute a curious canine that chews on them.

Tape wires to the wall or sides of the house.



Plants such as poinsettias, holly and mistletoe can be poisonous to pets.

Keep them out of reach.



Avoid shiny ornaments, such as tinsel and glass bulbs. Use plastic ties instead of wire hooks to hang ornaments and place items that could be swallowed or broken high on your tree.



Consider an artificial Christmas tree, real trees pose numerous threats to dogs. If you use a natural tree, make sure your pup doesn't swallow the pine needles. Also, be sure to use pet-friendly preservatives in the water.

Dispose of all wrapping materials, including bows, string and ribbons as soon as presents are opened. If swallowed, these can cause intestinal obstruction that often requires surgery.

