

# Blue Ravine News

**YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN**

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## Coming Soon—Blue Ravine's Open House— Saturday, December 7, 2019



On Saturday, December 7 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. the staff of Blue Ravine Animal Hospital will be on hand to greet you, help you to explore the hospital, and describe its medical capabilities and physical equipment.

You are invited to share in delicious holiday refreshments with the staff and guests and take home a goodie bag! Santa Claus is expected to

visit the hospital for a photo opp with your pet — he loves all his furry friends. It is a major stop for him every year.

You will also have the opportunity to win one of several exciting prizes that the hospital donates every year and your dog or kitty will take home a Christmas toy straight from Santa's pack.

This is our opportunity to share and engage socially with the clients who have supported us throughout the year. No reservation is necessary; just come and enjoy the fun. We want to share this time with YOU!

Mark your calendar now for the December 7 Open House!

— the Staff at Blue Ravine  
Animal Hospital



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## California Wild Fires

California wildfires recently forced nearly 200,000 people to evacuate from their homes. In an effort to avert more wildfires, Pacific Gas & Electric shut off power to 960,000 customers. The governor declared a statewide emergency, and immediate relief for Californians is not expected due to unprecedented fire weather conditions.

To help you and your pets during these stressful times, we've put together some guidelines to help you focus on what matters most during such an emergency.

First of all, remember that in the event of evacuation, pets may not be allowed inside human emergency shelters so it is important to have an alternate prearranged location to take your animals.

**ALWAYS TAKE YOUR PETS WITH YOU.** Never leave your pets behind thinking that you can get them later – fire conditions change and deteriorate very quickly, and you may not be able to return to your home.

Do not wait until the last minute to start evacuating. During a wildfire, local animal rescue organizations work with law enforcement and fire departments to rescue as many animals as they can. In battling a wildfire, firefighters will do what they can to rescue pets left behind, but their focus is saving human lives and structures – do not depend on them to rescue your pets.

Be sure to take the following with you if you can, but if fires are bearing down on your home, gather your pets and leave immediately.

- Bottled water. In many emergency situations, water becomes contaminated and tap water is not safe to drink. Additionally, with rolling power outages, water purification plants may be unable to treat and distribute water. You should have a 72-hour water supply – for both you and your pet:
  - a. A normally active person needs about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a gallon (about 3 liters) of water (or other fluids) daily. In other words, for 72 hours, each person in your household needs about 2½ gallons (9 liters) of water. For pets, this amount varies depending on the size of the animal.
  - b. Generally, a dog will drink between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 ounce (15-30 mL) of water per pound of body weight per day. In other words, a 65-pound (30 kg) dog will drink between  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon (1-2 li-

ters) of water daily. For 72 hours, provide about  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1½ gallons (3-6 liters) of water.

- c. A cat's daily water requirement is about 5-10 ounces (150 – 300 mL) of water per day. A cat would need about 15-30 ounces (450-900 mL) of water for 72 hours.

With the extreme heat, these needs will be higher.

- Food. Be sure to have a 72-hour food supply, including food (and water) bowls and a can opener if you feed your pet canned food.



- Medication. Take all medication that your pet needs. This is extremely important if your pet's life depends on it.
- Medical records and identification. Grab a copy of your pet's medical records (on Blue Ravine's website, log in to Petly.com for your records), along with your veterinarian's contact information. Snap a photo of your pet in case you become separated during evacuation.
- Toys, blankets, towels, cat carrier. These familiar items will help reduce the stress your pet will undoubtedly experience if you must evacuate your home.
- Waste bags and hand wipes. Be sure to pack plenty of waste collection bags, and since water for hand-washing may be limited, pack wipes and hand sanitizer for quick hand cleaning.

**Smoke inhalation injuries** can occur with exposure to smoke in large or small quantities. Fires produce several damaging substances, each of which can affect a pet's airways, lungs and well-being.

Factors that play a role in smoke inhalation include carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, chemical irritants and thermal injury. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced by fires. Hydrogen cyanide is released when plastic and other synthetic materials burn. Smoke contains a number of chemical irritants that can trigger airway inflammation and constriction; thermal injury comes from heat contained within smoke that can lead to burns within the airways and lungs, triggering severe swelling and inflammation.

Be sure to see your veterinarian as soon as possible for supportive care if your pet experiences smoke inhalation.

## Holiday Hazards and Safety Tips

**W**inter holidays are a wonderful time to enjoy being with family and friends. But with all the extra hustle and bustle, you may forget to abide by the same pet-proofing measures you follow the rest of the year. Here are some holiday pet safety hazards that you should be aware of to help keep your pet safe and happy through this holiday season.

**Chocolate:** As tasty as chocolate can be for us, it can be plenty dangerous for our pets. Worse yet, there are many seemingly innocuous forms of chocolate that pets can get into during the holidays—chocolate coins, baking chocolate morsels, and even chocolate-covered espresso beans and macadamia nuts can dispense an unhealthy dose of methylxanthines to pets.

Cats can also be adversely affected if they ingest chocolate but most cats have no interest in it. Over 90 percent of chocolate toxicity calls to the Pet Poison Helpline are for dogs.

**Grapes and Raisins:** These are also common pet safety hazards for pets during the holidays. Any candied raisins found in fruit cake, yogurt-covered raisins or grapes found on appetizer platters could spell bad news for your pet. Visiting family and friends are sometimes unaware that grapes and raisins are poisonous to dogs and cats.

**Medicines:** Visiting holiday guests may leave open suitcases on the floor, where pets can easily get into them. Suddenly a pet may have access to 20 different medications. Something as innocuous as Tylenol can be equally dangerous to pets. If you think your pet ingested any medications or supplements, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Poison Control (888) 426-4435 right away.

**Talkin' Turkey:** If you decide to feed your pet a little nibble of turkey, make sure it's boneless and well-cooked. Don't offer a pet raw or undercooked turkey, which may contain salmonella bacteria.

**Sage Advice:** Sage can make your stuffing taste delish, but it and many other herbs contain essential oils and resins that can cause gastrointestinal upset and central nervous system depression if eaten in large quantities. Cats are especially sensitive to the effects of certain essential oils.

**Raw Bread Dough:** Don't spoil your pet's holiday by giving him raw bread dough. According to ASPCA experts, an animal's body heat may cause raw dough to rise in the stomach. As it expands, the pet may experience vomiting, severe abdominal pain and bloating, which could become a life-threatening emergency.



**Tinsel:** Cats are fascinated with shiny objects. Anyone who has a cat may be better off forgoing using tinsel on trees, wreaths or garlands. Tinsel is thin and sharp and can easily wrap itself around the intestines or ball up in the stomach once ingested.



**Don't Let Them Eat Cake:**

If you're baking cakes that call for raw eggs, keep your pets out of the batter—the eggs could contain salmonella bacteria that may lead to food poisoning. The sugar substitute Xylitol also used in many baked goods is very dangerous to pets.

**Too Much of a Good Thing:** A few small boneless pieces of cooked turkey, a taste of mashed potato or even a lick of pumpkin pie shouldn't pose a problem. However, don't allow your pets to overindulge, as they could wind up with a case of stomach upset, diarrhea or even worse—an inflammatory condition of the pancreas known as pancreatitis. In fact, it's best to keep pets on their regular diets during the holidays.

**A Feast Fit for a Kong:** While the humans are chowing down, you might offer your pets Nylabones or made-for-pet chew bones. Or stuff their usual dinner inside a Kong toy. They'll be happily occupied for awhile, while you enjoy dinner.



**Also, for safe holidays:**

- **Secure your Christmas tree**
- **Be sure electrical cords and wires are out of harm's way**
- **Keep Holiday plants away from pets**
- **Do not leave pets near lit candles**
- **Watch out for broken ornaments**
- **Christmas tree water—do not put anything in it in case your pet drinks it**
- **Watch the exits: a pet can escape through an open door.**

**Enjoy your Holidays!**



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**Coming Soon—Blue Ravine’s Open  
House—Saturday, December 7, 2019**

## BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.  
For emergencies outside regular office hours, please call MarQueen Pet Emergency & Specialty, 916 757-6600  
or Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916 362-3111.

[www.blueravineanimalhospital.com](http://www.blueravineanimalhospital.com)

## Please come visit!! Blue Ravine Animal Hospital Open House

**One Free Cat or Dog Toy per Family,  
Complimentary Pet Photo with Santa Claus,  
Drawings for Prizes, and More!**

BLUE RAVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
1770 Prairie City Rd., Folsom, CA. 916-984-0990



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