

# Blue Ravine News

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

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## Santa is Coming to Blue Ravine's Open House— Saturday, December 1, 2018—and All Pets Will Leave With a Toy!



On Saturday, December 1st from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. the staff will be on hand to greet you, show you the facility, and explain its medical capabilities and equipment. Come have some delicious holiday refreshments and receive a goodie bag! You will also have the opportunity to win one of many exciting prizes! Santa Claus will be ready for a photo opp with your pet, and your dog or kitty can take home a Christmas toy. We might be able to show you around our remodeled rooms as well.

This is our opportunity to share and engage socially with 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 with the December 1st Open House date!

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— the Staff at Blue Ravine  
 Animal Hospital

# Christmas Hazards Pet Owners Should Be Aware Of

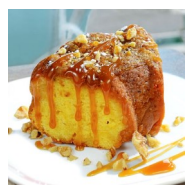
Avoid cat-connected catastrophes and dog-related dilemmas this Christmas! Pet emergency services have been known to see a 788 per cent increase in chocolate poisoning cases over Christmas and the holidays, and research shows that while most dog owners (93 per cent) are aware chocolate is poisonous, 32 per cent of pets have still been at risk after eating some. And it's not just chocolate that's cause for concern: dozens of foods like macadamia nuts, grapes and raisins, mince pies, blue cheese, snow globes and candles are also dangerous for dogs and cats, too.

As nine in 10 poisonings happen in the owner's home, and a shocking 5.5 million dog owners unknowingly feed their pets harmful foods at Christmas, here is a helpful list of hazards all owners need to be aware of to help you avoid any animal-related accidents this festive season:

## 1. 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 pets can get into during the holidays — chocolate coins, baking chocolate morsels, even chocolate-covered espresso beans and macadamia nuts can dispense an unhealthy dose of methylxanthines to pets. Cats, it's important to note, can also be adversely affected if they ingest chocolate. But, thankfully, most cats have no interest in it. In fact, over 90 percent of chocolate toxicity calls to the Pet Poison Helpline are for dogs.

## 2. Alcohol



Now it's highly unlikely any of your household guests would dare to give Fido or Fluffy a sip of their alcoholic drink, but they may not think twice about a piece of rum cake. Pets may also inadvertently become poisoned if they eat any unbaked bread dough. Once ingested, the stomach acts as an artificial oven that basically metabolizes the yeast [from the unbaked dough] into ethanol and carbon dioxide. This can then cause the animal to bloat from the excess carbon dioxide and suffer from alcohol poisoning from the ethanol.

## 3. Grapes (and Raisins)

Grapes and their dried cousins, raisins, are other common hazards for pets during the holidays. It may sound unusual, but any candied raisins found in fruit cake or

grapes found on appetizer platters could spell bad news for your pet. The other reason for a lot of grape and raisin poison calls, is because holidays are a time when family [and friends] visit — and they are sometimes unaware that grapes and raisins are poisonous to dogs and cats.

## 4. Medications



You may be a stickler when it comes to pet-proofing your house, but once holiday guests arrive that all goes out the window. Traveling household guests often leave open suitcases

on the ground, where pets can easily get into prescription medications found in Zip-loc bags. Suddenly you have a pet that can get into 20 different medications all at once.

## 5. Tinsel

Anyone who has a cat needs to really watch out for when using this shiny object around the house. In fact, you may be better off forgoing using tinsel on trees, wreaths, or garland this year. Tinsel is thin and sharp and can easily wrap itself around the intestines or ball up in the stomach once ingested.



## 6. Xylitol

It may sound like some exotic instrument, but xylitol is just a sugar substitute found in some sugar-free candies, gum and recipes. When ingested by pets, xylitol may cause vomiting, loss of coordination, seizures, and in severe cases, liver failure. Don't let your sweet tooth accidentally become hazardous to your pet's health.

## 7. Plants



Winter holidays wouldn't be the same without mistletoe and holly. Unfortunately, these are also two of the more toxic holiday plants to pets, causing severe gastrointestinal disorders, breathing difficulty, even heart failure in extreme cases. The dangers of poinsettias, are overhyped. While they are

*Holiday Hazards (Continued on page 3)*

### Please check out our new online pet store for veterinary diets—Vetsource.

Blue Ravine Animal Hospital has a new partnership with Vetsource®, a provider of quality pet foods that are provided directly from the manufacturers and shipped right to your front door.

If your pet needs a prescription diet, our staff can recommend a prescription online with Vetsource or you can go online to search for a particular food. You can order wellness diets or send a request for a prescription food for a doctor to review and/or authorize. You provide the quantity, shipping information and payment, and the delivery is conveniently shipped to you with no shipping charge.

Reordering is easy and Vetsource offers discounts for auto-shipped orders. Again, you do not have to transport heavy bags

of dog food from the vet's office to home and into the house; how convenient is that?

You will find if you visit the Vetsource website that they offer over the counter health care products, flea and tick medications, and medical prescriptions as well but Blue Ravine is only offering the food option at the present time.

Please visit our store — <http://BlueRavineStore.com>



*(Continued from page 2)*

not safe for your pet, often a dog or cat that ingests a small portion of a poinsettia just gets a bit of mild indigestion.

### 8. Liquid Potpourri

Much like "regular" potpourri, liquid potpourri can freshen up any room. However this concentrated fragrance, which is typically simmered in a pot and then placed in a bottle for later use, can cause severe damage to your pet if ingested. Cats are super curious about simmering potpourri and drink the liquid, which then poisons them. Liquid potpourri also contains a cationic detergent, which is corrosive and can cause burns on a pet's tongue, difficulty breathing, and even excess liver enzymes.

### 9. Holiday Ornaments

Although not poisonous, many ornaments have sharp edges that can cause perforations and lacerations to pets that try to chew on the decorations. We wouldn't dare ask you to strip the house of all the joy holiday ornaments can bring, but please safeguard them for the sake of your pet.



### 10. Electrical Cords

Winter holidays bring with them plenty of connected devices —lights, lights, and more lights — along with

the electrical cords and outlets needed to power these devices. Curious puppies and kittens are especially intrigued by the exposed wiring and are therefore most in danger of the burns or fluid accumulation in the lungs associated with electrical shocks. Take care where you place electrical cords and outlets, and when possible, place them out of reach from your pets.



### Be Prepared

As you can see, the dangers for your pets are numerous. But with a little common sense and a lot of preparation you can minimize the danger. One of the most important aspects of being prepared is knowing what to do if an emergency should occur. Some advice for that as well: It's helpful to preprogram the contact numbers for your vet, nearest emergency hospital, and the Pet Poison Helpline (855) 764-7661, <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com>. Do it now before you forget!



## NATIONAL MUTT DAY

Desperately longing for a new home, millions of loving and healthy mixed breed dogs in shelters across the United States are waiting for someone to come and adopt them. National Mutt Day provides an excellent opportunity to find the perfect canine companion.

Despite the name, a mutt learns, obeys and trains much like pure-bred animals. While their lineage cannot be traced and their features a bit murky, their companionship will be faithful.



### HOW TO OBSERVE

Visit a shelter; if you are unable to adopt a dog, you can always volunteer. Post on social media using #NationalMuttDay and encourage others to join in.

### HISTORY

Celebrity Pet Expert and Animal Welfare Advocate, Colleen Paige, founded National Mutt Day in 2005. This day is celebrated on both December 2 and July 31 of each year.

## 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)

## 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



**BLUE RAVINE OPEN HOUSE**  
**Saturday, December 1, 2018**  
**2:00 — 6:00 p.m.**