

## Pet Poison Safety

### (Poison Prevention for our Furry Kids)

- **Alcohol** – Dogs love alcohol and can swill a large amount in a very short time. In both cats and dogs, it can lower their blood sugar and cause coma.
- **Antifreeze** can taste good to animals and wildlife (it's typically sweet). Very small amounts can cause death. Seek immediate treatment by calling your vet if an exposure occurs.
- **Chocolate** can cause nausea, vomiting, convulsions and serious heart problems in both cats and dogs depending on the amount. Do not place food and candy gifts within reach of your pets. Be aware that wrapped gifts arriving from out of town might contain a food item so be mindful when putting gifts under the tree where they can access them.
- **High fat foods** can cause indigestion as well as damage to the pancreas. Examples: nuts, cream, ground beef, bacon, ham and giblets, poultry skin, butter.
- **Grapes and raisins** can cause kidney failure – do not feed these to your pets.
- **Onions and garlic** and their seasoning salts can cause anemia in pets.
- It's tempting to want to share **bones** from the holiday turkey, chicken or steak. Think again – cooked bones or bone chips can lodge in the throat, stomach and intestinal tract and cause damage or blockage requiring surgery.
- **Christmas tree** needles are sharp and can puncture your pet's intestines if eaten. Some preservatives used in the tree stand water can cause stomach upset. Do not add aspirin or sugar to the water.
- **Holly and mistletoe** are poisonous to pets and care must be taken to keep them out of reach.
- **Poinsettia** is not as poisonous as once thought but eating the leaves can cause stomach upset and/or vomiting.
- **Kalanchoe** is a beautiful houseplant that causes abdominal distress if ingested by dogs or cats. If they eat too much, it may affect their heart.
- **Tinsel and ribbon** can get caught in the intestines and cause internal cuts or a serious blockage.
- **Glass ornaments** can cause cuts in the mouth, stomach or bowels.
- **Ice melting products** can cause burns to the pads of the feet. If eaten, it can cause nausea, vomiting and dehydration.
- If you suspect a poisoning, call the **Rocky Mountain Poison Center** anytime day or night at **1-800-222-1222**.

**“Be Smart, Keep Kids and Poisons Apart”**

