

Christmas Dangers

Christmas, that time of year when many are busy putting up a tree, hanging decorations, wrapping gifts and eating boundless quantities of food. All of these activities are potential sources of danger to cats and dogs. Ingestion of Christmas tree decorations can cause foreign body obstructions or GI lacerations, and ribbons whether from the tree or gifts may cause airway or GI obstruction (linear foreign body), especially in cats.

The Christmas ham may result in pancreatitis, particularly if there is high fat content, and Christmas cake, mince pies and pudding with raisins, sultanas and currants or grapes may cause renal failure. Onions, leeks and garlic found in stuffing etc may induce a Heinz body anaemia and chocolate, particularly the dark variety can cause toxicity even in very small amounts. Over-indulgence in macadamia nuts may cause neurological signs and simple ingestion of food that is not a routine part of the diet can cause vomiting and diarrhoea.

For more information visit our website <http://www.svslabs.nz/cms/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/toxic-christmas.pdf>

