



PALS PRESS

Newsletter of Calgary's Pet Access League Society

"Pets Helping People"

Winter2007

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Dates to Remember:

- * Dogs in the Mall
Dec 19, 20
- * Casino Feb 14, 15 2008

Jingle, tingle, jingle, tingle, jingle, tingle,

Oh...

Just hear those dog tags jingling
Ring ting tingling too
Come on it's lovely weather
For a walkie together with you

Oh it's just like Iditarod
Pulling you on the ice
We've got the leashes in our mouths
We're not gonna ask twice

Giddy-yup giddy-yup, giddy-yup lets go
We'll eat all the snow
We'll drag you around till your cheeks glow
Giddy-yup giddy-yup, giddy-yup it's grand
Tugging at your hand
We're galloping after the scent of a doggie parade that's grand

The other dogs are out there now
Making tracks in the snow
All the best smells are fading fast
To the park we must go

So grab that leash and hurry up
Anxious doggies are we
We're loaded up with water
So we can mark every tree!

Pet Holiday Safety Tips

The upcoming Holiday Season is an exciting time for everyone. Your pets are also affected as they see things around them change. Their quiet living room is now replaced by a big flashing tree with bright lights, shiny tinsel and boxes covered with ribbons and wrapping paper. Gone are the tasty chew toys that usually litter the floor, replaced with carpet fresheners and cleaners for when guests arrive.

During the holiday season, you'll want to keep an eye on your pets. Suddenly the house will be filled with flashy, shiny, tasty, glittery, pine-smelling, bright, noisy, crackly items, sure to intrigue most pets especially cats and dogs.

Dogs that are already chewers will find the holiday season full of exciting new things to chew on. There are strings of lights, ornaments on the tree or ones that have fallen down, nice, new, cool smelling boxes with wrapping paper. All these things are hard for a curious dog to pass by.

Cats love Christmas. They especially love ribbons and bows, tinsel and tree ornaments. There is many a story of emergency trips to the vet to remove yards of ribbon from inside a cat. Many cats enjoy the taste of ribbons and quite a few cats love playing with the tinsel, batting it around until they can eat it.

In order to avoid any costly and potentially fatal accidents this Christmas, make sure to take a few precautions before leaving your pet alone near a tree.

Here are a few good holiday tips to keep your pet safe and health this holiday season:

* Alcoholic beverages: Alcohol is moderately toxic, and, drunken dogs are not cute. One ounce of a 20 - 40 proof beverage can cause alcohol poisoning or coma in a small dog.

* Artificial snow: Possibly poisonous, can cause digestive upset; respiratory irritant if inhaled.

* Candles: Dogs can be burnt by flame or dripping wax, or have whiskers and fur singed. Candles are also a fire hazard to the house if pet knocks it over.

* Electric cords: Chewing on cords can cause pets to be shocked, burned, and even electrocuted.

* Fasteners for decorations: Glue, rubber bands, staples, string, tacks, tape. All of these can cause mild pain, serious complications, and even death if swallowed.

* Food and Bones: Choking, internal punctures, possibly death; Chocolate can cause poisoning, vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, hyperactivity, seizures; Fatty, spicy or sweet foods can cause gastric upset, dehydration, pancreatitis. Hot foods can cause burns and mouth or throat ulcerations.

- * Garbage/food prep items: Aluminum foil & pans, candy wrappers, paper plates, cups and plastic flatware, plastic wrap, roasting bags, six-pack plastic beverage ring, turkey lacing or skewers. All items can cause abdominal discomfort, intestinal blockage, internal bleeding, even death, if eaten; danger of suffocation or choking also exists; possibility of food-poisoning.

- * Guests: Guests can add to the noise, confusion and stress for your pet. Pets can be stepped on or unsupervised children can injure them. Pets can escape when visitors come and go. Guests are more likely to feed dogs than owners. Multiple guests each feeding 'just a little bite' adds up to quite a lot of food. Advise your guests of your pet 'house' rules for feeding. Keep your pet in his or her regular spot. If their area is in a location where the dog may become distressed, move the pet to a quieter room.

- * Ornaments: Obviously you are tempting fate if you string your tree with edible or "food strings". Garlands, glass, hooks, straight pins may also cause problems. Food ornaments can be moderately toxic, causing gastric upset. All items have the potential to cause fatal complications if ingested.

- * Potpourri, aerosol fragrance, incense, simmer pots can cause nasal or respiratory irritation, skin rash, stomach upset, burns.

- * Poisonous Plants: Christmas cactus, hemlock, holly, ivy, mistletoe, poinsettia. Range from mildly upsetting to extremely toxic. All of these may cause gastro-intestinal irritation, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, coma, central nervous system or cardiac problems, even death. Try spraying your leaves with Bitter Apple repellent (or if your dog **likes** the taste of Bitter Apple like mine – just don't buy them!) Immediately pick up and discard dead leaves, stems, or berries.

- * Ribbon, trim, polystyrene foam packaging, wrapping foil or paper: All of these are dangerous if eaten.

- * Tinsel can cause intestinal strangulation, obstruction, internal cuts and abrasions.

- * Trees (live, including balsam, cedar, juniper, fir and pine). Sap or preservatives may be mildly toxic, causing mouth or stomach irritation. Needles cannot be digested and may puncture intestines. Rambunctious pets may knock over tall trees, cutting themselves on broken decorations. Male dogs may perceive tree as "indoor plumbing" and urinate on branches. If your dog is extremely boisterous, try putting decorative fencing around the tree or put the tree up in an X-pen. Cover floor under tree with plastic. Anchor your tree to the floor with sturdy weights on stand or tie to wall or ceiling to prevent tipping.

Pets may have a hard time adjusting to the increase in activity during the holiday season and may not handle the stress well. A great way to combat that is to schedule a few minutes each day to play with your pet. Take a little time to prepare. Think about the special risks during the holidays and this will ensure an enjoyable holiday season for all.

Some information taken from www.ASPCA.org



A Fun Activity For You and Your Dog

You are invited to come and try out a Dog Hash! What is Hashing you ask? Hashing is a non-competitive run through varied terrain where "Hashers" (runners and a few walkers) follow a trail set by "Hares". After the run everyone gathers for socializing and drinks. Hashing has a colorful history. In 1938, British ex-pats founded the "Mother Hash" in Kuala Lumpur. Today there are thousands of hashes around the world. You will find at least one hash in pretty much every major city on the planet. There are a total of five different Hashes in Calgary. The Dog Hash is especially for the dogs. They (dogs and their owners) meet once or twice per month, usually in or near an off leash area and follow a marked trail that is about 1 hour in length. Afterwards they get together at the Hare's home for biscuits (dogs) and beer (people) and go over tales from the trail. It's a fun group, slightly wacky and definitely not for everyone, but it was my dog's absolute favourite activity outside of eating. For more information go to the Hash website www.onon.org

Art Market

The 2007 Art Market was again a resounding success, bringing in excess of \$6600. Once again, Susan did a great job of organizing the volunteers. Normally I only do booth relief, but this year I had the pleasure of covering for Susan so she could take a last minute vacation in the Caribbean. Sore feet aside, (I never let fashion suffer for the sake of comfort) I thoroughly enjoyed working with and talking to many of our amazing volunteers. It's no wonder that the Artisans are so happy with the service we provide! It was also a special treat for me to stop by the PALS booth to observe the pets in action. When I watch them, I am reminded that they will always be our best ambassadors.

Sandra

Membership Renewals

It's that time of the year again when memberships are due. Please note that membership fees for 2008 have increased slightly to \$30 for single, \$40 for family and \$30 for clinic. This is the first increase since 1995, and it is an integral factor to continuing the same level of quality and service we provide to both you the volunteer and the people we visit.

If you have already paid your membership - Thank You! If not, please take a moment to do so today. PALS is happy to offer you the ability to renew your membership on line, via phone, via fax or by mail.

Online: You can renew your membership with the help of Pay Pal. You can use a debit card or credit card without having to create an account with Pay Pal. If you already have a Pay Pal account, that will work too. To pay for your membership on line go to <http://www.palspets.com/members/renewals.shtml>

Phone: Call either Sandra or Joan at the PALS office at 250-7257 and use your credit card. We accept both Visa and MasterCard.

Fax or Mail: Go to <http://www.palspets.com/members/renewals.shtml> and print off the downloadable form. Complete the form. If you are using a credit card, you can fax the form to 250-9273 or mail it to the PALS office. If you wish to pay by mail, please send the form along with your payment to the PALS office at 3019 – 21 Street NE, Calgary T2E 7T1.

Pet of the Month



Sparky and Kelly Wessely wish you all of the very best this holiday season.

Would you like to see your pet's photo on the PALS home page?

It's relatively easy to do just submit a photo of your pet wearing its PALS scarf along with a short biography to petofthemonth@palspets.com. For more information on submission criteria, please visit the PALS website at www.palspets.com and click on the 'Members' section.

Volunteer Calgary's Leadership Awards

Know a special pet that deserves some extra recognition for the volunteer work they do? Nominate them for the "Pet Volunteer Award" through Volunteer Calgary's Leadership Awards.

Nominating Criteria

The Volunteer Pet Award recognizes an animal that demonstrates the spirit of volunteerism through its active volunteer involvement and contribution to the community. The recipient of this award may share the honour with an individual who is a partner in the animal's volunteer activities.

Volunteer Calgary knows that volunteerism on the part of animals, often requires some human assistance. The award recipient may share his or her award with a human counterpart and the invitation to attend the Leadership Awards ceremony will be extended to one human companion.

Nominations should be approximately 500 words and include the following information: (Submissions may include supporting materials.)

- A description of the volunteer pet's significant volunteer contribution with one or more organization
- A description of the pet's relationship with his or her owner(s)
- A description of the impact the volunteer pet makes on individuals and/or community
- How the pet demonstrates enjoyment as a volunteer

Recipients receive:

- Leadership Awards signature art piece
- Participation in the Leadership Awards celebration
- Profile as a winner of the Volunteer Pet Award in Volunteer Calgary communications material

The 12th Annual Leadership Awards celebration will be held on May 1, 2008 at the Calgary Stampede Roundup. Deadlines for nomination submissions is February 21, 2008.

If you'd like to nominate your pet for the Volunteer Pet Award please go to <http://www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca/volunteer/leadershipawards/nominate.html>

Interviewers Needed

Helping with interviews not only is a great way to develop a valuable skill, it also gives you the opportunity to have a direct influence on the quality of volunteers entering the program. The next intake of new members will begin in January and, if you would like to help with interviews, please contact Joan at the PALS office or email her at: joan@palspets.com.

Your 2008 Schedules Are Now On-Line

2008 PALS visiting schedules are now online! You can now access your 2008 facility schedule by visiting the PALS website or by clicking on this link <http://www.palspets.com/members/schedules.shtml>. For those of you who would like to receive your schedule via post or fax please contact the PALS office at 250-7257.

Dogs (and Cats) in the Mall - December 19th & 20th

Once again Eaton's Centre will play host to the very popular *Dogs in the Mall Christmas Raffle*. This year, we've added three of our amazing PALS cats to the line up of volunteers attending the event.

All of the volunteer spots are now filled but, feel free to drop by and see why *Dogs in the Mall* is one of Eaton's Centre's most favourite events. You can also come down to buy tickets for a chance to win some Flames merchandise. Make sure to spread the word with your coworkers that a little pet therapy is available on the +15 Level of Eaton's Centre just outside of Sears and Holt Renfrew. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The booth hours are 10 am to 8 pm on both days. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Office Hours

Because we all deserve a break - The PALS office will be closed December 22 to January 1 inclusive.

Wishing you and yours all the very best this holiday season. From the PALS Board of Directors and staff.



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PET ACCESS LEAGUE SOCIETY
 3019 - 21 Street N.E.
 Calgary, Alberta
 T2E 7T1

Telephone: 250-PALS (7257)
 Fax: 250-9273
 E-mail: info@palspets.com
 Website: www.palspets.com

Newsletter: Shannon Boyd, Jennifer Poole
 Newsletter Editor: Denise Ronsky

