



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## Addabbo Urges Pet Owners to Take Precautions During This Winter and Holiday Season

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR. December 4, 2023



It's important to take extra special care of your pets during the winter and holiday season.

The holiday season and colder weather are here, so Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. urges all pet owners to take extra precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of their beloved animals. The festivities and dropping temperatures can present unique challenges for pets, and it's important to be mindful of their needs during this time.

Here are a few tips to keep pets safe and healthy during the holidays and winter months:

1. **Mindful Feasting**: While enjoying holiday feasts, it's essential to resist the temptation to share rich, fatty foods with pets, as these can cause digestive issues or even more severe health problems. Instead, treat them with pet-friendly, holiday-themed treats.
2. **Avoid Mistletoe & Holly**: Holly ingestion can lead to pets experiencing nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Mistletoe consumption can result in gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular issues. Additionally, various types of lilies can cause kidney failure in cats if consumed. Instead, consider opting for equally festive artificial plants crafted from silk or plastic, or select a pet-friendly bouquet.
3. **Secure Decorations**: Holiday decorations such as tinsel, ornaments, and electrical cords can pose a hazard to curious pets. Make sure these items are securely fastened and out of reach to prevent ingestion or injury.
4. **Winter Shelter**: If pets spend time outdoors, ensure they have access to a warm, dry shelter and fresh water. Consider bringing them inside during particularly cold weather.
5. **Cold Weather Gear**: Just like humans, pets can be sensitive to the cold. Consider using pet-safe antifreeze, providing them with protective clothing, and wiping their paws to remove any salt or chemicals after walks.
6. **Holiday Travel**: If traveling during the holidays, make sure pets are properly secured and comfortable during the journey. If they're staying home, consider reliable pet care options to ensure their well-being while the owner is away.

Be a responsible pet owner and make sure the pet is safe and comfortable, especially during the holiday season. By taking these simple precautions, pet owners can guarantee that their pets enjoy a happy and healthy winter season.

For further information and resources on pet safety and care, please visit <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/holiday-safety-tips>