ECOWATCH

Christmas and dogs

■ BY HARRY KALAJIAN

As the holiday season is approaching, we must take certain precautions. Although most of everything you have already learned to do or not to, it's always a good refresher.

If you're putting up a tree or just decorating to the minimal you must take consideration that your dog or cat will get in to it. The lure of shinny things or ornaments hanging or even the glitter reflecting light will get your pet curious. Some dogs that have a sharp hearing can even go after the lights; the reason being is the wires, bulbs or timers make a noise.

Sometimes we can hear it at times we don't but your pet does.Some ornaments are fragile and can break causing injuries, or even a plastic ornament thinking its safe is not. Your pet will play with it thinking it's a toy or just a toy ball.

Christmas plant like the Poinsettias or Hollies are very dangerous to them. (There are many other dangerous holiday plants, but these are the two main ones).

At times it can and has happened where dogs have urinated on the tree, just to mark it. Not only would it make a mess but can even activate indoor peeing. For your safety and your pets try to put a barrier around the tree to prevent your pet from getting to it.

Certain holiday foods can be shared with your pet, however in very small amounts. Always use common sense; no bones of any kind, no cakes or pastries and under no condition offer them from the table. Always offer it in there bowls after you have finished and you're no longer at the table.

Many owners like to dress up there dog for the holiday season with bandanas or outfits. Be careful that anything they have on does not constrict movement or get hooked on anything. Sometimes we don't realize that the smallest add-ons can be a health hazard.

In the event your dog swallowed something and pending what it is, you can induce vomiting by giving a teaspoon of hydrogen peroxide. Pending again what they have swallowed you may give them a Vaseline sandwich (a piece of bread with Vaseline spread on it). This will insure the dog pass whatever they swallowed through its poop with ease. If unsure see your veterinarian.

Any toy or foods in general; stick to name brands that are made either here in the United States or Canada. As for products; stick with American, Canadian or German made. This is mostly for the Northerners; the jackets or clothes for winter will not keep them warm because temperature is regulated from their paws. The only thing the jackets or clothes will do or help is in preventing the fur/hair from getting wet from the snow. If you are planning to go outside in the snow for a walk, put Vaseline on their paws. This will help prevent ice and snow from accumulating and sticking. (By the time you come back most of the Vaseline will be gone, if not just wipe their paws).

This applies to all, try not letting your dog lie in front of any heating source or air conditioning vents/ducts. This will help prevent your dog from getting boogers in their eyes.

Training isn't hard as long as you are willing to put time and follow my formula to have success; Patience, Persistence, Consistency & Repetition. If you still fail, it's on you not your dog. You didn't stick to the formula.

Have a woof woof of a month.

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