

# Did you know?

## Holiday Edition

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Nine in ten pet owners surveyed say they consider their pet a member of the family



63% of dog owners and 58% of cat owners surveyed said they give their pets presents at Christmas



Unsweetened baking chocolate has a higher level of a toxin called theobromine than milk chocolate; however both can be toxic to dogs



The Florida pet owner will spend an average of \$121 on a pet this holiday season – that's 22% above the national average



40% of dog owners and 37% of cat owners hang Christmas stockings for their pets



Since 2009, holiday spending on pets has increased by 33 percent to reach a staggering \$60.59 billion



While tinsel is a pretty tree decoration and ribbons and bows are decorative they can also become a great toy for the spunky cats and kittens in the household. Ribbons, bows, and tinsel can be seen as toys or even prey for a cat or kitten to chase, pounce on, chew and even swallow



Lilies, a popular flower in holiday arrangements, causes acute kidney failure in cats. If consumed by animals, Poinsettias can be irritating to the mouth and stomach causing mild vomiting or nausea. Christmas Cactuses also cause mild gastric upset when ingested



64% of surveyed pet owners said they include news about their pet, and 36% include a photograph in their holiday cards



Ornaments help a Christmas tree look very festive, however lights glimmering off the shiny surfaces make them appear as toys to pets. Problems occur if ornaments are ingested whole or if broken pieces are chewed or stepped on leading to bleeding feet or mouths



About one quarter of both dog owners (27%) and cat owners (23%) sign their pet's name on greeting cards or notes



Americans spend about \$5 billion on holiday presents for their furry friends



Last year, pet owners spent \$389 million on pet toys alone



Christmas tree water can become contaminated with the fertilizers used on the tree which can lead to stomach upset. Also if the water has become stale bacteria can multiply leading to nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea if consumed



Batteries from toys contain corrosives which can lead to ulcers of the tongue, mouth and the rest of the digestive tract



About 27% of pet owners claim to have taken their pet to a professional photographer to have a picture taken with family, Santa, or the Easter Bunny

