



## Holiday Pet Safety



Christmas and New Year celebrations are generally cheerful occasions, but some of the decorations and gifts we humans enjoy can be harmful, or even fatal, to our pets. If you have a "real" Christmas tree, clean around it often, as ingested pine needles can puncture a pet's intestines.

Ornaments, ribbons and rubber bands can be ingested and swallowed, causing serious and possible fatal digestive problems. Drinking the water from the Christmas tree base can cause diarrhoea, mouth sores, vomiting and loss of appetite. And like humans, pets can suffer stomachaches from overindulgence of chocolate and candy.

Don't share alcoholic drink with your pet - the effects can be harmful, even fatal and never give ham, steak, or poultry bones to your pet. Ingestion of these can lead to severe intestinal disease and perforations or obstructions.

Fireworks are a danger to all pets, both physically and psychologically. Ensure your pet is indoors during such times and in their favourite room. Provide some familiar toys and keep your pet safely inside the house with a television or radio playing to drown out the noise. The day following these celebrations can be a nightmare at animal shelters, due to the influx of lost pets that have fled in panic from the fireworks. Thunderstorms can also cause animals to become distressed and escape from their properties, run into the street resulting in possible accidents or even death. Tales of dogs and cats scaling two metre high fences to escape the noise and others running away only to be injured or killed by motor vehicles are all too common.

Cats, very much creatures of habit, do not like a change in routine. They can find school holidays, evening parties and dinners, not to mention longer daylight hours, very unsettling. If you are going out for the day, ensure your cat has access to shelter, which it is accustomed to using. Food, together with a water source, should always be available.

If you've got dogs, take them with you on your travels or find a boarding kennel. Or a friendly neighbour could be asked to check on your animal during the day to ensure there are no problems. Failing that, give your pet a holiday in a dog kennel or cattery, but don't leave booking until the last minute!

At home pet sitting and dog walking services are becoming popular Melbourne wide. New to Australia, the pet services cater mostly for dogs and cats, but are also available for more exotic pets such as rats, fish, ferrets, guinea pigs, birds and snakes.

### Additional holiday hazard alerts include:

- Remember that plants (holly, mistletoe, poinsettia, lilies, Christmas rose, etc.) are poisonous to pets.
- Pine needles can create problems if ingested.
- Unsecured Christmas trees pose hazards to climbing critters as they can topple or be knocked over.
- Don't forget to prevent the ingestion of Christmas tree water since stagnant water or preservatives can be toxic.
- Other holiday hazards include menorahs, candles and liquid potpourri pots.
- Fire and burns are not the only threats to pets and the household. Scented items can also be harmful--especially to birds.
- The ingestion of inappropriate foods, tinsel, ribbons or garlands can cause sickness or obstruction.

- Breakable items such as glass and other ornaments pose a threat.
- Electrical cords, heated decorative bulbs, hooks, and a wide variety of other adornment items create temptations. Use topical pet deterrents and barriers for protection.
- Keep décor items out of reach of your pet or in places your animals cannot get to them.
- Nicotine poses a threat. Keep it out of reach.
- Keep trash lids on tight. Chewed aluminum foil and e-coils are risks to pets.
- Store food in secure containers out of reach to prevent ingestion or poisoning.

## **Not sure what to buy someone for Christmas ?**



**Why not give them something meaningful and unique this Christmas ?**

**Make a donation in your loved one's name to GVAC !**

**We will send a personalized Christmas card in your name with a Photo and Bio of the animal your gift helped !**

**Contact Pamela 381-4744 or email [gvac@shaw.ca](mailto:gvac@shaw.ca) for more info**



*Festival of Trees*

Come down to the Empress Hotel and come and look at Animal Crusaders Tree of Life !

We have animals we have helped on the tree as well as animals you can Sponsor for Christmas !

Vote for our Tree and the proceeds go to help Children's hospital

GVAC to date is Voted in as #3 in the top ten trees !

Don't forget to get your Calendar for 2008

## 2008 Fundraiser Calendar

Purchase a Calendar for \$15 & Help Save  
Animals

Inside each month we showcase an animal we  
have helped & their story !



100% of Proceeds go to Save Animals Just Like These



All animals in this calendar have been rescued by Animal Crusaders



### Purchase your Calendar at:

Your Pet Pals ~ Admirals Walk

Belmont Langford Vet ~ 785 Goldstream Ave Langford

Quadra Veterinary Clinic ~ 2608 Quadra Street

Gorge Veterinary Clinic ~ 2904 Tillicum Road

K9HQ Doggy Daycare~102-721 Station Ave Langford


CRD Pound ~ 5401 Pat Bay Highway

CRD Office ~ 212-2780 Veterans Memorial Parkway


Or Email: [gvac@shaw.ca](mailto:gvac@shaw.ca) or call 381-4744



**Purchase a Christmas book & Help animals at the same time !**




## SANTA'S DOG SNOW STORM




- ✿ A Children's story featuring Angus, the Samoyed from Victoria ,B.C.
- ✿ A gentle lesson about the effects of Global Warming
- ✿ Written and illustrated by Richard Ende
- ✿ \$15.00 per copy + shipping and handling. Order from: [bende@telus.net](mailto:bende@telus.net)  
A portion of all profits from sales of this book will go to Animal Rescue Organizations

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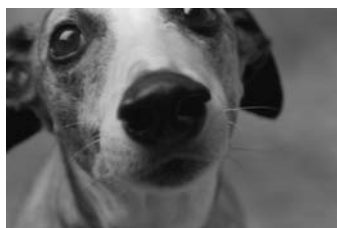
**To Place your order Email : [bende@telus.net](mailto:bende@telus.net)  
And be sure to mention GVAC and \$2 from every order will come  
back to us !**

[Dog & Cat Foster Homes Urgently Needed](#)

GVAC is in desperate need of dog & cat foster homes.

We can't help the hundreds of strays who are in need of a safe place if you don't  
open up your heart and homes !

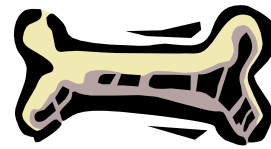
If you can foster a needy dog or cat please email Pamela at [gvac@shaw.ca](mailto:gvac@shaw.ca)



**September STATISTICS**

Cat Spay	Cat Neuter	Dog Spay	Dog Neuter	Other
33	28	2	8	88
Rabbit	Neuter 4	Spay 1		

**SEPTEMBER TOTAL ANIMALS HELPED 168**



## Vets for Pets Clinic Needs Volunteers!

GVAC is looking for volunteers to help us at our Vets for Pets Clinic, which is held at "Our Place" once a month

This clinic is for the pets of People on the Streets so their pets are able to receive vet care and food supplies.

This clinic is usually the 2nd Monday of each month and runs from approx 11 - 2 PM  
If you want to volunteer or would like more info please contact Diane at [cyberdi@telus.net](mailto:cyberdi@telus.net)



**GVAC is desperate for homes for feral cats/kittens. Can you provide shelter, food and minimal care ?  
GVAC will fix, vaccinate before they go. They need your help !  
Email [gvac@shaw.ca](mailto:gvac@shaw.ca)  
or call 381-4744**



**Close-up of a cat's tongue**



## In Memory

September 2007 ~ Margaret Mayhew who will be missed

### Q- Tip



*In memory of little Q-tip who had to be put to sleep, but had two "memorable loved" weeks in foster care with Donna Paton and her crew.*

### Amber



*Sadly Amber became very ill suddenly and did not survive .. She will be truly missed by us at GVAC and more so by her Foster mom and family who had her for a very long time...*

*The blessing is Amber passed away being loved .. and in her "mothers" arms .. sadly a lot of strays don't have that ..*

### Bubaloo



*Bubaloo also became suddenly ill at his young age and was diagnosed with Kidney Failure. He was loved and in foster care up to the very end.*

*He will be missed*

## "Our Place ~ Clinic Client Special Thank you"

To *GVAC* and staff:

Thank you for all you did for Isis. Here is a little poem for all of you.

See the kitten on the wall,  
Sporting with the leaves that fall,  
With the red leaves, one, two and three  
Falling from the elder tree,  
Through the calm and frost air  
Of the morning bright and fair  
See the kitten, how she starts,  
Crouches, stretches, paws and darts;  
With a tiger-leap up half way  
Vow she meets her coming prey  
Lets it go as fast and then,  
Has it in her power again  
Now she works with three and four,  
Like an Indian conjurer,  
Quick as she is in feats of art,  
Gracefully she plays her part;  
Yet were gazing thousands there  
What would little tabby care ?  
"The kitten at Play"

From Kim .. Thanks to all of you from all of my heart and soul

**Check out Who we have up for Adoption !**  
**GVAC now has all our animals up for adoption on**  
**[www.animalcrusader.ca](http://www.animalcrusader.ca)**  
**Check us out!**



PO Box 5541, Station B, Victoria BC V8R 6S5 474-5581

I support Animal Crusaders fight against overpopulation, abandoned & abused animals.

Membership: Single \$10.00 \_\_ Family (two or more) \$17.50 \_\_\_\_  
Senior \$6.00 \_\_ Life \$100.00 \_\_\_\_ Student \$6.00 \_\_\_\_

I wish to make: "One Time" donation: \_\_\_\_ "Monthly" donation: \_\_\_\_

\_\_ \$15 \_\_ \$25 \_\_ \$50 \_\_ \$75 \_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

\*\* I would like the monthly deducted on: 1st of Month \_\_\_\_ 15th Month \_\_\_\_

\*\* For monthly automatic withdrawal from your account please mail in a voided Cheque.

I wish to charge this to my  Visa  MC  Amex

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(for receipt) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_



**Something you want to see in our News Letter??**

**Email any story or topic suggestions to the email below.**

**Contact Us:**

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**Victoria BC V8R 6S4**

**(Phone) 250-474-5581**

**(Email) [gvac@shaw.ca](mailto:gvac@shaw.ca) (For Inquiries, Subscription or Cancel your Subscription)**

**Web: [www.animalcrusaders.ca](http://www.animalcrusaders.ca)**