

COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS DECEMBER 2001

We now have a **WEBSITE** for Grassland Veterinary Service. The address is www.myvetonline.com/grasslandvet. We would like to thank the Schering Company for helping us out with this, and Dr. Hartmann for her hard work in getting things up and running. Aside from a description of the practice, you can view our staff, read our newsletter, and learn more about many topics through links to articles and websites. Have fun and surf away!

HOLIDAY DANGERS FOR PETS – As you decorate your home for these festive holidays, please remember there are many dangers for your pets. Here is a list of things to avoid:

-TINSEL – This is a big NO-NO if you have cats in the house. They may swallow it and get an intestinal obstruction that requires surgery.

-GREENS – Any type of pine, balsam, juniper, and fir can have volatile oils in the sap that can cause skin or eye irritation.

-TREE PRESERVATIVES – Please stick to plain water or sugar water. Anything else can be dangerous if ingested.

-SPRAYS/FLOCKING – These are low in toxicity but may still cause vomiting and depression. It is best if these are avoided.

-CHOCOLATE – Contains theobromine which acts similar to caffeine. Diarrhea, restlessness, weakness, seizures and coma can result from eating chocolate. Please don't leave any chocolate out where your pet can get at it.

-PLANTS – Amaryllis, mistletoe, holly, Jerusalem cherry and poinsettias are all considered toxic. Nausea and vomiting are the most common reactions. The most toxic is the Jerusalem cherry, which can cause cardiac arrest.

-TABLE SCRAPS – Although it seems like you are giving them a treat, feeding tablescraps can make your pet very sick. Vomiting, diarrhea and pancreatitis (severe inflammation of the pancreas), are all common sequelae to feeding high fat foods. Buy them a special dog or cat treat instead!!

If you think your pet has come into contact with any of these things and you are not sure what to do, give us a call. Even after hours, the phone number is the same 238-7686.

Don't let your pet **gain** that unnecessary **weight** this winter. Remember that when the activity level goes down, so should the calories!! We see too many pets that come in year after year gaining a pound or two each year. Be aware of your pet's body condition. Can you feel the ribs? Is there a waistline? Ask us what to do if your pet is getting too heavy. Remember that obesity contributes to arthritis, diabetes, and heart disease (just like humans)!!

FEBRUARY IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH! Remember to check your pet's teeth. If you see any tartar or red gums (especially those very back teeth), a good cleaning would benefit your pet's health. We offer a discounted price during the month of February. Please reserve your spot early!! Also check out the pet dental health month website at www.petdental.com.

FROM ALL OF US AT GRASSLAND VETERINARY SERVICE – HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!