

**Christmas is coming and it is about family, friends, fun, presents and food.  
We want our dogs to be part of the celebrations whilst keeping them happy and safe.**



A healthy dog is a curious dog, so our dogs will want to check out any additions to the decor. Take advantage of these enriched environments and let them investigate and sniff.



If you have a Christmas tree, to avoid your dog inadvertently toppling it over, it is best to place it in a corner. Also bear in mind that baubles, tinsel, lights and the tree water are all potentially dangerous for our dogs, so make sure he is supervised when around the tree.



Candles are part and parcel of Christmas lets keep them where there is no chance of an inadvertent bump or tail wag sending them toppling and causing a fire risk.



Potentially toxic for our dogs are: grapes and raisins (no Christmas pudding), chocolate (the purer the more toxic, you may remember that from the Easter message), cooked bones, alcohol and any foods high in fat, sodium and/or sugar. Holly, poinsettias and mistletoe, so let's keep them out of reach of our dogs.



If you have a little turkey left over go ahead offer them some (without bones) or even better a raw carrot or a few slices of apple.



At Christmas there usually is lots of noise, hustle and bustle. This might be fun for us, but it can be overwhelming for our dogs. So we need to make sure we keep them happy and safe; they will need to have the possibility to take themselves off to a quiet space to relax. In any case, a good idea is to leave some quiet time in the schedule to give them and us an opportunity to decompress.



We also need to be aware of people coming and going and our dogs following someone out of the front door and/or escaping – it happens all too easily, don't let yours be one of them.



Dogs are very popular with children and as it is the season for socialising, they will more than likely come into contact with one another. It is therefore important for their respective safety that interactions are supervised, no matter how mature the child is, or how gentle the dog is.



Remember that all our dogs look forward to helping us unwrap our Christmas presents, but best of all, they would like one or more all to themselves to unwrap and keep/chew/eat/cuddle/carry around ... etc etc ...

**Happy Christmas to you and yours**



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Please pass the message around **"A dog is for life, not just for Christmas"**.