

Blue Ravine News

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN

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You are Invited to Blue Ravine's Holiday Open House December 7, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Celebrating Christmas with our clients is a special opportunity for our staff and all our clients to share some fun, have some wonderful food including special snacks and desserts, and to communicate about what's new and exciting at Blue Ravine. Our staff is eager to meet with you and your pets; your concerns are important to us.



Santa Claus is making a special trip before his round-the-world Christmas event to visit us and take some photos with your pets. Please call ahead to make arrangements with our staff for your special Christmas photo appointment.

**Remember the date! We hope to see you and your pet on December 7th.
 We value your loyalty, kindness and respect.**

— the Staff at Blue Ravine
 Animal Hospital

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Holiday Hazards and Safety Tips

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inter holidays are a wonderful time to enjoy being with family and friends. But with all the extra hustle and bustle, you may forget to abide by the same pet-proofing measures you follow the rest of the year. Here are some holiday pet safety hazards that you should be aware of to help keep your pet safe and happy through this holiday season.

Chocolate: As tasty as chocolate can be for us, it can be plenty dangerous for our pets. Worse yet, there are many seemingly innocuous forms of chocolate that pets can get into during the holidays—chocolate coins, baking chocolate morsels, and even chocolate-covered espresso beans and macadamia nuts can dispense an unhealthy dose of methylxanthines to pets.



Cats can also be adversely affected if they ingest chocolate but most cats have no interest in it. Over 90 percent of chocolate toxicity calls to the Pet Poison Helpline are for dogs.

Grapes and Raisins: These are also common pet safety hazards for pets during the holidays. Any candied raisins found in fruit cake, yogurt-covered raisins or grapes found on appetizer platters could spell bad news for your pet. Visiting family and friends are sometimes unaware that grapes and raisins are poisonous to dogs and cats.



Medicines: Visiting holiday guests may leave open suitcases on the floor, where pets can easily get into them. Suddenly a pet may have access to 20 different medications. Something as innocuous as Tylenol can be equally dangerous to pets. If you think your pet ingested any medications or supplements,



call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Poison Control (888) 426-4435 right away.

Talkin' Turkey: If you decide to feed your pet a little nibble of turkey, make sure it's boneless and well-cooked. Don't offer a pet raw or undercooked turkey, which may contain salmonella bacteria.

Sage Advice: Sage can make your stuffing taste delish, but it and many other herbs contain essential oils and resins that can cause gastrointestinal upset and central nervous system depression if eaten in large quantities. Cats are especially sensitive to the effects of certain essential oils.

Raw Bread Dough: Don't spoil your pet's holiday by giving him raw bread dough. According to ASPCA experts, an animal's body heat may cause raw dough to rise in the stomach. As it expands, the pet may experience vomiting, severe abdominal pain and bloating, which could become a life-threatening emergency.



Tinsel: Cats are fascinated with shiny objects. Anyone who has a cat may be better off forgoing using tinsel on trees, wreaths or garlands. Tinsel is thin and sharp and can easily wrap itself around the intestines or ball up in the stomach once ingested.



Don't Let Them Eat Cake:

If you're baking cakes that call for raw eggs, keep your pets out of the batter—the eggs could contain salmonella bacteria that may lead to food poisoning. The sugar substitute Xylitol also used in many baked goods is very dangerous to pets.

Too Much of a Good Thing: A few small boneless pieces of cooked turkey, a taste of mashed potato or even a lick of pumpkin pie shouldn't pose a problem. However, don't allow your pets to overindulge, as they could wind up with a case of stomach upset, diarrhea or even worse—an inflammatory condition of the pancreas known as pancreatitis. In fact, it's best to keep pets on their regular diets during the holidays.

A Feast Fit for a Kong: While the humans are chowing down, you might offer your pets Nylabones or made-for-pet chew bones. Or stuff their usual dinner inside a Kong toy. They'll be happily occupied for awhile, while you enjoy dinner.



Also, for safe holidays:

- **Secure your Christmas tree**
- **Be sure electrical cords and wires are out of harm's way**
- **Keep Holiday plants away from pets**
- **Do not leave pets near lit candles**
- **Watch out for broken ornaments**
- **Christmas tree water—do not put anything in it in case your pet drinks it**
- **Watch the exits: a pet can escape through an open door.**

Enjoy your Holidays!

Is It Okay for Cats to Drink Milk?

Cat Toxins & Poisons

Many people don't think twice about giving dairy to cats. We've certainly seen whipped cream used as a common treat, and what kind of cat commercial would be complete without depicting a nice saucer of milk? So it might surprise many cat lovers to learn that, once weaned, most cats are lactose intolerant.

What does it mean if a cat is lactose intolerant?

Lactose intolerance means the body doesn't produce enough lactase to break down milk into simple sugars. According to catworld.com, "it remains in the digestive system where bacteria cause it to ferment." Undigested milk can cause issues for cats just like it can for people. Your cat will obviously be uncomfortable.

Symptoms of a lactose intolerant cat include the following:

- Diarrhea
- Gas

- Bloating

Additionally, milk offers little in the way of nutrition for cats; still, cats generally do love the taste.

What can my cat drink in place of milk?

First of all, your cat should always be able to get clean, fresh water. Milk is not a staple — unless of course you have a kitten. For adult cats, all vital nutrients can be provided by cat food alone. If you do want to treat your cat to some milk occasionally you should consider a lactose free cat milk (yes, they make it). This kind of milk is likely to be healthier anyway.

Even lactose free milk should be a treat and not a daily offering. Keep in mind that milk has calories and that feline obesity carries with it many risks.

If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian -- they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.

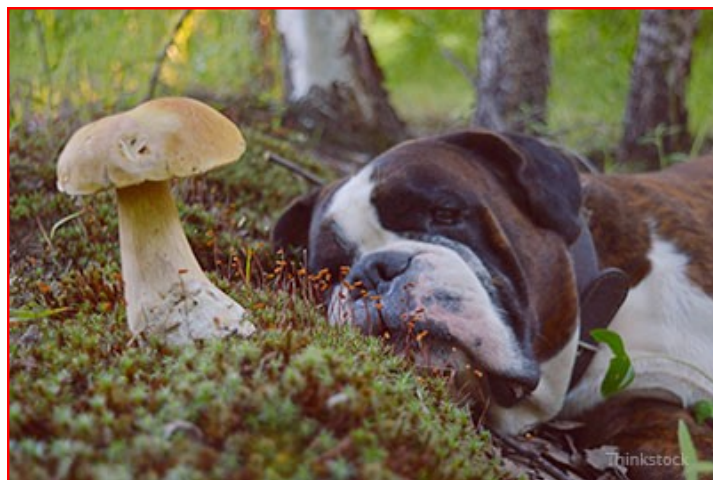


Are Mushrooms Poisonous to Dogs?

There are thousands of mushrooms out there, but only about 100 types are poisonous. **Don't worry about mushrooms sold in large-chain grocery stores – these are safe and considered non-toxic to dogs and humans.** Depending on what type of mushroom is accidentally ingested, poisoning can be seen even with just a small bite. Mushrooms are very difficult to identify, and that should only be done by mycologists.

What if you notice your dog eat a mushroom?

If you notice your dog eat a mushroom, get to a veterinarian or emergency veterinarian immediately. The sooner you bring your dog in, the sooner we can decontaminate (e.g., induce vomiting or administer activated charcoal to bind the poison from



the stomach) and treat your dog; this will be less expensive and less damaging to your dog. Additional treatment often includes IV fluids, blood work monitoring (for 2 days), liver protectant drugs, anti-vomiting medication, and supportive care. If you wait until clinical signs develop, it may be too late to treat your dog effectively.

When in doubt, you can always call your veterinarian, emergency veterinarian, or ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center for life-saving care at 888-426-4435.

Call Blue Ravine Animal Hospital at 916 984-0990.





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From Blue Ravine to all our clients:
We wish you Happy Holidays, a Happy New Year and a safe, healthy and prosperous year ahead in 2025.

BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, closed.
For emergencies outside regular office hours, please call MarQueen Pet Emergency & Specialty, 916 757-6600 or Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916 362-3111.

www.blueravineanimalhospital.com

Christmas Coupon

Come to Blue Ravine's December 7th Christmas Open House to visit with our staff, partake of some great food and pick up your gift bag. Plus, have a tour of the facilities and take a free Christmas photo with Santa and your pet.

Can't wait to see you!

Appointments are needed for photos with Santa. Please call ahead to schedule so we can accommodate everyone:

916 984-0990

Thank you!

The Staff of Blue Ravine Animal Hospital



BLUE RAVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
1770 Prairie City Rd., Folsom, CA.
916-984-0990