

# Rice Creek Hunting Dog Club



Volume 1, Issue 3  
December 2010

## Letter from the President

Hope everyone is having a good hunting season. Thank you to everyone that worked and judged our hunt tests this year. A reminder for all that have titled dogs this year to get pictures into JP, and I hope to see all of you at the annual banquet. Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Gary Lee

## Winter Health and Safety Tips for Dogs



Our Web site is :

<http://www.ricecreekhuntingdogclub.com>

If you have any Photos you would like to share and have put on the web site please contact Travis Lund at:

Harsh winter weather brings a wide variety of concerns to responsible dog owners. Bitter cold, numbing wetness, biting winds and salt can cause much grief for that special dog in your life. To assure your canine companion stays healthy and safe through the long, winter months, follow these guidelines.

- Wind chill causes colder conditions than what is read on a thermometer. Dogs shouldn't be left outside for long periods of time. Even a half hour in frigid temperatures can cause problems. Be sure to keep a sharp eye on your dog's body temperature and never leave him in the yard for more than 10 minutes when temperatures dip below freezing.
- Always be sure your dog has adequate shelter where it will be warm and dry. Be sure that he isn't lying in a drafty area. Place his bed, blanket or pillow on tile and wood floors to give him a warm place to sleep.
- Groom your canine companion on a regular basis. A coat that is well maintained is well insulated. Shorthaired dogs and those with coarse coats get cold easily. Consider purchasing a blanket, coat or sweater to keep your dog warm.
- Trim excess hair from footpads and toes of longhaired dogs. This makes it easier to remove ice and snow. Be careful not to injure your dog's foot when trimming hair.
- If you own a working dog, or if your canine companion spends hours outdoors, feed it extra calories. In winter, dogs need extra energy to regulate body temperature. Extra food provides necessary nutrients to see your dog through the most frigid days.

## Holiday Safety Tips for Dogs

Drs. Foster & Smith, Inc

We want the holidays to be a happy time for you and your pet, not a time for an emergency visit to your veterinarian. The food and decorations that make the holidays so much fun for us can be dangerous for your pet. We do not want this article to dampen your holiday spirits, but we do want you to be aware of the dangers and plan carefully to avoid these potential hazards.

### Food - Related Items

Holiday foods we enjoy cooking and eating can be a problem for your pet. Rich, fatty foods, like gravy or grease, can cause problems ranging from stomach upsets to **pancreatitis**, which is an inflammation of the pancreas resulting in pain, vomiting, and dehydration. Dogs with this serious condition often require hospitalization for treatment.



Alcohol can cause serious intoxications in pets, and many dogs are attracted to it. Every year hundreds of dogs die after a single bout of alcohol consumption. Clean up glasses after holiday parties. Dogs are often attracted by the sweet taste of drinks, especially eggnog.

**Chocolate**, coffee, and tea all contain dangerous components called xanthines, which cause nervous system or urinary system damage and heart muscle stimulation. Chocolate, with theobromine, is especially a problem because dogs love its flavor. Problems from ingestion range from diarrhea to seizures and death. Unsweetened baking chocolate and dark chocolate are the worst culprits, but all chocolate, fudge, and other candy should be placed out of your dog's reach.

Uncooked meat, fish, and poultry can contain disease-causing bacteria, such as *E. coli*, and parasites such as *Toxoplasma gondii*. These uncooked foods should not be given to your dog. For your own health, as well as your pet's, wash utensils that have been in contact with raw meat, and cook meat thoroughly.

Bones from fish, meat, or poultry can also cause problems if swallowed. Even small bones can splinter causing lacerations (tearing) throughout the intestinal tract. So, no matter how big or how little they are, be sure to keep bones (other than those that are specially sterilized and treated) away from your dog. Rawhides, Kong toys, and hardened, sterilized bones would be better alternatives.

Tobacco products can be fatal to pets, if ingested. Signs of poisoning develop within 15 to 45 minutes and include excitation, salivation, vomiting, and diarrhea. Pets may develop seizures, collapse and die from cardiac arrest. Keep cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, nicotine gum and patches, and ashtrays out of the reach of pets. Empty ashtrays frequently since cigarette butts contain about 25% of the total nicotine in a cigarette.

Uncooked yeast dough can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines.

Grapes and raisins contain an unknown toxin, which can damage the kidneys.

The artificial sweetener, [xylitol](#), that is present in some gums, breath mints, candy, and other human food can be very toxic to dogs.

Macadamia nuts contain an unknown toxin, which can affect the digestive and nervous systems and muscles of dogs.

Remember, dogs have an exceptional sense of smell – juices on plastic or aluminum foil left on countertops are very tempting. If ingested, plastic or foil wrap (cellophane candy wrappers or food wrap) can cause choking or intestinal obstruction.

Meat-soaked strings from rump roasts are also enticing. Ingestion can cause a surgical emergency called a '[linear string foreign body](#)' in the intestines.

To be safe, put away food immediately, and pet-proof your garbage. Garbage contains all kinds of other hazards for your dog such as plastic wrap and bags, 6-pack beverage holders that could cause strangulation, fat trimmings, bones, and pieces of ribbon or tinsel.

Feed your pet(s) before a party so they will not be so apt to beg or steal food.

### Poisonous Plants

We all like making our homes more festive for the holidays. We enjoy the green foliage and colorful flowers of plants. Unfortunately, many of the plants we have in our homes during the holidays can be poisonous to pets. If ingested, holly (leaves and berries) causes stomach upset and can be potentially fatal to both dogs and cats. Mistletoe upsets stomachs and can cause heart collapse, while hibiscus may cause diarrhea. Poinsettias have an irritating sap that can cause blistering in the mouth and stomach upset. So when you brighten up your home, place these plants well out of your dog's reach, or use imitation holiday plants.



### Decorations and Wrappings

All that glitters is not gold – it could be dangerous for your pet. Ribbons, yarn, and string can cause intestinal obstruction and bunching of the intestine along the length of the string. These conditions require surgery and can be fatal. Ribbons around your dog's neck may be cute, but they can also be dangerous.

Adhesives and glues can be toxic and are often attractive to animals.

Potpourri contains oils that can be toxic to dogs if eaten. We may not think of eating it, but some curious pets may.

Candles can cause burns and fires. Never leave lighted candles unattended or within reach of your pet.

Few things are more tempting to a playful dog than a game of tug. This is not a good game, however, to play with the end of a tablecloth. Try to keep items such as tablecloths, table runners, etc., from hanging too low to the floor, and tempting happy dogs running by to grab an end and pull!



### Gifts Under the Tree

Rawhide or other edible items left under the tree can be very tempting, and remember that companies often package rawhide or other pet gifts wrapped in ribbon. Make sure to remove ribbons or ties before you present gifts to your dog.

If played with and swallowed, yarn, ribbon, or string on gifts can cause intestinal obstruction, requiring surgery.

Perfumes and after-shaves contain ethanol (alcohol) and perfume also contains essential oils which can be very toxic to dogs if ingested.



Batteries for toys or other gifts can be toxic and cause intestinal obstruction. Keep in a safe place until they are ready to be inserted in the gift.

### Christmas Trees

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how careful we must be. Christmas trees and their decorations can create hazards for pets.

Place Christmas trees in a stable stand, and attach the tree securely to a window or wall with something like fish line. We have known others who have hung their tree from the ceiling! To keep pets away from the tree, it may help to use a Scat Mat. While most dog owners use an indoor exercise pen to provide a safe place for a pet to play, during the holidays, some people place the pen around the tree. Even though you take precautions, make sure your dog is always supervised when in a room with a tree.

Tree needles can be toxic and cause mouth and stomach irritation. Even needles and the wire of artificial trees could pose a problem. Be sure your dog is not chewing on branches or eating fallen needles.

Tinsel's shininess is attractive. When eaten, it can cause blockages, which often require surgery to remove. Leave it off the tree altogether.

Angel hair, flocking, and artificial snow are mildly toxic. If consumed in larger amounts, however, they could cause blockage of the intestine. Try decorating with something less likely to cause a problem.

Chewing on electrical cords, including cords of lights can cause problems ranging from burned mouths, to electrical shock to death by electrocution. Some larger lights can become quite hot, and could also cause burns. Unplug decorative lights when you are not there, use pet-proof extension cords, and spray cords with a product such as Bitter Apple or Chew Stop. Dogs will often play with glass ornaments as if they were balls and serious oral lacerations can result. Sharp ornament hooks can also become imbedded in your pet's mouth or esophagus. Place ornaments that are shiny, or could be swallowed or broken high up on your tree. Larger, less intriguing ornaments can go near the bottom.



Decorating trees with food is asking for problems. Candy canes and gingerbread people can be as enticing to your dog as they are to children. We know of one diabetic dog who ran into some problems with regulating her disease because she was stealing candy canes off of the tree. Popcorn, raisin, or cranberry garlands are beautiful, but can cause an obstruction when eaten, requiring surgery.



Because tree preservatives are often sugar-based (and inviting to dogs) and because the water stands so long, the water in the tree stand often harbors potentially harmful bacteria. Fertilizers, insecticides, or flame retardants that were used on the tree may also get into the water. Cover the stand with a tree skirt or use other means to prevent access to the water.

## WILD GAME NEEDED FOR BANQUET



If anyone has any wild game to  
donate for the banquet  
please contact  
**JP Martin**  
320-584-5817

### MEMBERSHIP

There is currently only one category of membership. \$35.00 includes individuals and families. Your membership must be current in order for you to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting. (There is one vote per paid membership.) Membership renewals can be sent to:

**Dianne Pflipsen 30397 Clear Lake Rd. Albany, MN 56307**

### RICE CREEK HUNTING DOG CLUB MEMBERSHIP, year 2010

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Family members names (spouse and children under 18)

Breed of Dog/s \_\_\_\_\_

# RCHDC NEWSLETTER



**Dianne Pflipsen**  
**30397 Clear Lake Rd.**  
**Albany, MN 56307**

## **RICE CREEK HUNTING DOG CLUB ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET**

Saturday January 22, 2010  
Royalton American Legion  
103 North Maple Street  
Royalton, MN  
Cocktails 5:00  
Dinner 6:00

Program and meeting to follow dinner

\$18.00 per person

(In appreciation of our youth, those under 18 years of age who assisted with  
hunt tests this year will be admitted free)

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Please RSVP by Jan 15th

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

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to :

JP Martin,

15418 Nature Road

Royalton MN 56373 or call JP at 320-584-5817