



Pyramid Veterinary Hospital
2405 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
775.356.8323 • pvhcares.com



Valentine's Day Safety Tips!

Each year our poison control experts see a rise in cases around February 14, many involving chocolate or lilies, a flower that's potentially fatal to cats. Valentine's Day can be as much fun for pets as it is for humans—as long as dangerous items are kept out of paws' reach!

Pet-Safe Bouquets

When sending a floral arrangement to someone with a cat, specify that it contain **no lilies**. When receiving an arrangement, always check it. If your pet is suffering from symptoms such as lethargy, vomiting or diarrhea, he may have ingested an offending flower or plant. Use the ASPCA's online **toxic and nontoxic plant** library as a visual guide for dangerous plants.

Forbidden Chocolate

All types of chocolate are potentially life-threatening when ingested by pets—they can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, seizures and an abnormally elevated heart rate. The high-fat content in lighter chocolates can potentially lead to a life-threatening inflammation of the pancreas.

Careful with Cocktails

Animals are smaller than humans so a little bit of alcohol can do a lot of harm, causing vomiting, diarrhea, lack of coordination, nervous system depression, tremors, difficulty breathing, metabolic disturbances and even coma or death.

Life Is Sweet

Don't let pets near treats sweetened with **xylitol**. Gum, candy, or other treats that include this can result in hypoglycemia. This can cause your pet to suffer depression, loss of coordination and seizures.

Playing with Fire

It's nice to set your evening a-glow with candlelight, but put out the fire when you leave the room. Pawing kittens and nosy pooches can burn themselves or cause a fire by knocking over unattended candles.

Wrap It Up

Gather up tape, ribbons, bows, wrapping paper, cellophane and balloons after presents have been opened—if swallowed, these long, stringy and “fun-to-chew” items can get lodged in your pet's throat or digestive tract, causing her to choke or vomit.

The Furry Gift of Life?

A cuddly puppy or kitten may seem a fitting Valentine's gift but returning a pet you hadn't planned on is anything but romantic. Animals bring with them a lifelong commitment, and choosing a pet for someone else doesn't always turn out right.