

SWVH NEWSLETTER:

HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2008

Dr. Gary Sargent and Dr. Erin Rasmusson and the entire staff at SWVH want to extend a special thank you for your support and business over our first three months and wish all of you (furry or not) **happy holidays!**



Holidays are a special time of year with special meals and special friends and family gatherings. It is also a time when our pets may be exposed to holiday hazards. Please read on to learn some common pet safety tips for dogs and cats through the holiday season.

FOOD

Dogs and cats are typically accustomed to a diet that changes little day to day. So any new “people food” (meat scraps, gravy, sweets, etc.) can potentially cause gastrointestinal upset (vomiting, diarrhea) or even the more serious pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas resulting in pain, vomiting), which often

requires hospitalization. Grapes, raisins and macadamia nuts contain toxins that can be life-threatening. Even though dogs and cats may hang out in the kitchen or under the table – and even though their “puppy-dog” eyes might tell you the opposite – **not feeding them table scraps is actually better for them.** Giving any type of bones is potentially very dangerous, and can result in anything from cracking a tooth to cutting the esophagus or stomach or causing an intestinal obstruction.

It is also important to put leftovers away immediately and pet-proof your garbage, most dogs are very ingenious if highly motivated.

DECORATIONS AND WRAPPINGS

Ribbons, yarn and string can cause intestinal obstruction and bunching of the intestine around the length of string – this requires surgical correction and can be fatal. Potpourri contains oils that can be toxic if eaten – and yes, dogs and cats will drink/eat potpourri.

GIFTS

Make sure to remove all ribbons and wrappings from dog and cat gifts before allowing your pets to play with the toys/treats from Santa. Remember to choose healthy holiday treats for your dogs and cats and give them in moderation.



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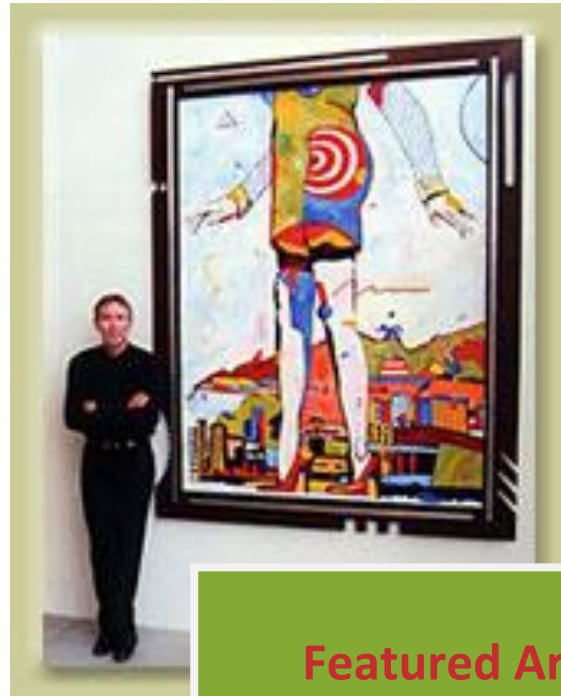
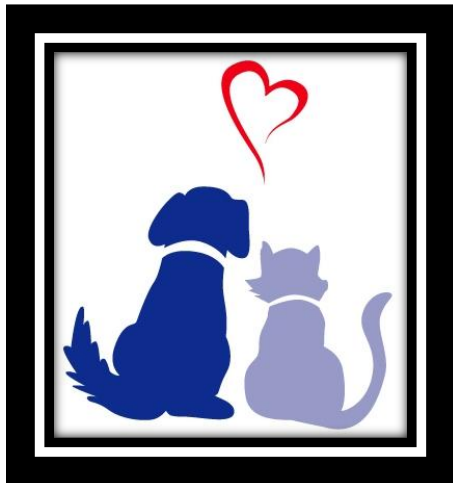
CHRISTMAS TREE

It is best to ensure that Christmas trees are in a stable stand and best not to have kittens and puppies –who tend to be the most curious – unsupervised near the tree. **Chewing on tinsel, electrical cords, glass ornaments, candy canes or other decorations are all potentially dangerous!!** Tree preservatives make the tree water taste sweet; however, because it is stagnant water, it may harbor bacteria which could be harmful if swallowed by dogs or cats.

We are here to help you and your pets with any questions. We are only a phone call or email away!

Sincerely,

The SWVH Doctors and Staff



Featured Artist at Southwest Veterinary Hospital

You may have noticed that the lobby of SWVH is graced by a wonderful new piece of art, which is on loan from featured artist Gregory Hawthorne. If you get a chance to drop by, even if your pet is not scheduled for an appointment, please feel free to stop in and take a look.

GREGORY HAWTHORNE

From a studio overlooking the Gallery and the Pacific Ocean, Gregory's diverse work incorporates painting, sculpture and design. Gregory uses multiple techniques in the functional art of his custom furniture, painted steel wall puzzles, water features, and abstract and figurative sculptures. His work is represented in hundreds of private, public, and corporate collections.

www.hawthornegallery.com