

# PET PREP

## *for the Holidays*

*With the winter holidays here and Easter near, it's a good idea to pet-proof your pad around any festive new décor you may want to incorporate throughout your household. To get the fur 411, bask caught up with Dr. Wheaton of Alicia Pet Care Center. His tips? Wrap it up, use caution with the sweet treats and green isn't always good. We know that despite our best efforts, pets still get into what's "off-limits," so we've also included a list of favorite vets to contact from San Diego to LA—many of whom are just a virtual click away.*



*Dr. Matthew Wheaton, Alicia Pet Care Center in Mission Viejo—OC's award-winning vet with a state-of-the-art facility. [MyPetsDR.com](http://MyPetsDR.com)*

## Q & A: with Dr. Wheaton

### ***What are the most common holiday offenders?***

Ribbon, twine and tinsel. They aren't a cat's best friend. Every year, thousands of cats get an expensive present called abdominal surgery and it puts a big damper on things. Keep the long, thin, shiny wrappings away, they're too tempting.

### ***The truth about cats and dogs... and chocolate?***

We've all heard about the danger of chocolate for dogs (cats are too smart for this one), but still every year thousands of dogs get poisoned by the sweet stuff during the holidays. Chocolate tastes good to almost every species on earth, but dogs can't break down one of the ingredients. It can either make them feel like they have had too many cappuccinos or it can cause seizures and heart arrhythmias. So keep it out of reach or you might have a very hyper or sick pup on your hands.

### ***Holiday foliage—you don't dig?***

Holly and mistletoe are extremely toxic if ingested and lilies carry a high mortality rate for animals who ingest even a small amount. Interestingly, poinsettia has a reputation for being very toxic, but offers only the possibility of mild upset stomach symptoms. Bottom line: keep the plants up and away, especially from the notoriously curious cats.

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## Other top vets to keep on your call list:

### **All Creatures Care Cottage**

Treating exotic pets (rabbits, reptiles, fish and ferrets, as well as dogs and cats) in Orange County for 30 years.

[AllCreaturesCareCottage.com](http://AllCreaturesCareCottage.com)

### **Laguna Canyon Animal Hospital**

Popular with beachgoers as it is coastal-close in the canyon off the 133. [LagunaCanyonVet.com](http://LagunaCanyonVet.com)

### **Market Street Veterinary Clinic**

Located in the heart of downtown San Diego. Dr. Marla Saltzman is a favorite. [MarketStreetVet.com](http://MarketStreetVet.com)