Protect Your Pet’s Health
This Winter Howl-iday Season

The holiday season is a time of fun and celebration—but colder weather, decorations and parties can create safety hazards for pets. We’ve teamed with VPI® Pet Insurance to bring you simple pet safety tips to keep your holidays festive.

VPI is the #1 veterinarian-recommended pet insurance, and is available year-round as a voluntary benefit. GSU employees, retirees and students will receive a 5% discount; owners of multiple pets qualify for discounts of up to 15%!*  

Beware of cold weather hazards
Keep pets away from antifreeze—dogs and cats like the sweet taste, but one lick is enough to kill. Also, thoroughly wipe your pet's paws and tummy after walks to remove salt and chemical residues, which can get into fur and between paw pads.

Keep holiday decorations out of reach
Ingestion of glass, metal, ribbons or tinsel can lead to serious medical emergencies for pets. Also, snow globes and artificial snow contain chemicals that can be harmful if ingested or inhaled.

Keep a watchful eye on pets
Everyone loves a party, but sometimes the hustle and bustle can frighten animals and cause them to run away. Designate a quiet, secure room away from the crowd, and be sure your pet is microchipped and wearing a collar with current ID tags.

Place holiday plants high off the ground
Pretty as they are, ivy, holly, mistletoe, poinsettia, lilies and Christmas greens can all be toxic to animals if ingested. Also, don’t allow pets to drink Christmas tree water—it can be harmful, too.

Fight the temptation to feed table scraps
Fatty holiday meats can cause a number of gastrointestinal problems while bones can cause bowel obstructions or choking. And remember: no chocolate for pets! The sweet stuff contains a chemical that is toxic to pets.

For a no-obligation quote on VPI Pet Insurance or to enroll, visit PetsVPI.com or call 877-Pets-VPI. Advise VPI you are associated with GSU to receive group discount—available year-round!

* Rate discount applies to the base medical plan only. Pet owners will receive an additional 5% multiple-pet discount by insuring two to three pets or a 10% discount on each policy for four or more pets. All applications are subject to underwriting approval. Read your policy for complete coverage details. Underwritten by Veterinary Pet Insurance Company (CA) Brea, CA, National Casualty Company (all other states), Madison, WI, an A+15 rated company. © 2012 Veterinary Pet Insurance Company. Nationwide Insurance is a service mark of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. This article may be used for duplication and reprinting. 12GRP1698