



Circle City Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital
9650 Mayflower Park Drive,
Carmel, IN 46032
317-872-8387 www.circlecityvets.com

2009 Holiday News



Thank you for entrusting us with your pet's specialty veterinary care. Our core value is to *"Make a positive difference in every life we touch"* By practicing this value we have come to realize the positive difference you and your pet are making in our own lives. We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!

Paula West, DVM, DACVS, has joined our Circle City Team of boarded specialists. Dr. West became a **Diplomate** in the College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1997 and spent 10 years as Chief of Surgery in a Chicago area practice. While there, she also consulted for the Brookfield and Lincoln Park Zoos as well as Loyola University Medical School's Department of Comparative Medicine. In her short time here, Dr. West has won over hearts and minds, both from our referring hospitals and our clients. If your pet is facing a surgical procedure that is more than "routine", take the time to understand the difference between a veterinarian who has a "special interest", and one who is a "specialist". ([learn more](#))

Surgery Specialist
Joins Circle City's
Team of Doctors

Tasty Treat...or Treacherous Tidbit?

Which of the following "people foods" are potentially harmful to dogs and cats?

1. Macadamia nuts
2. Garlic
3. Onions
4. Sugar-free gum
5. Raisins
6. Grapes
7. Chocolate
8. Alcoholic beverages
9. Turkey bones

As you may have guessed, *all of the above* can be dangerous to your pet.

Is Uncle Leo going to try to poison Spot?

Although no one would intentionally harm your pet, well-meaning relatives may give your pet something off their plates in an attempt to share the holiday spirit with him. Small children are especially good at "sharing" their meal with 4-legged friends.

Many people are surprised to learn that grapes and raisins are toxic to pets' kidneys. Certain types of sugar-free gum can cause a dangerous drop in blood sugar and possibly even liver damage. Chocolate can cause a racing heart, tremors, or seizures.

Even foods that aren't toxic to pets can cause a digestive upset that can spoil your family's special day. Bones have the potential to cause an obstruction or even puncture internal organs. Fatty meals can cause potentially life-threatening problems as the pancreas tries to deal with the unfamiliar food.

The best way to prevent a problem is to keep your pet confined in an area away from your guests. (Your pet may appreciate a break from the tail-pulling toddlers!) If Fido is going to mingle with the guests, let them know that your pet has already eaten, and request that they don't offer anything from their plates. Monitor the floor for tempting morsels offered by little ones who are finished with their meal.

If your pet has a problem in spite of your efforts, our [Emergency Department](#) is staffed throughout the holidays. Hopefully, a little advance planning will prevent an unscheduled visit with us!