



**Love is a four-legged word**

**Merry Christmas!**

We hope you have managed to buy your four-legged friend a present?! If not, it's not too late! My dog has been sniffing under the tree already! I think someone has bought him a ball on a rope and he can smell it! I have purchased a few items but they are not under the tree as yet! He can smell his own presents a mile away (but luckily, he won't touch the others).

**Here are a few hazards you may need to consider this Christmas;**

Decorating the tree – can your dog be trusted with all the new dangly things on the tree? (a puppy probably not!)

Is the electrical lighting or cord going to pose a danger? Make sure they cannot chew at them.

Presents! I'm lucky in that my dog only has a nose for his presents; yes, he can sniff them out a mile away! (even if its double wrapped). His presents go up out of the way until Christmas. If your dog can't be trusted around the presents then use a child barrier (a child's play pen around the tree or a physical barrier). Presents containing chocolate can pose a hazard too. If you know that Chocolate is in any of the presents make sure it's kept out of reach.

Toxic foods Make sure your pets stay away from chocolate, onions, avocado, macadamia nuts, grapes & raisins, stone fruit and any sweet foods containing xylitol (just to name a few). Xylitol is a useful sugar alternative for humans; but not pets as it can be deadly. Its been brought to our attention that peanut butter (often smeared inside a dogs kong toy as a treat) can contain xylitol (in the low sugar or sugar free varieties) so check all ingredients before giving your pet leftovers or treats.



**Remember when you go out to family events this year be sure to leave your dog (or cat!) a treasure hunt if they are not going with you.** My suggestions are; a treat ball or kong with treats (or both!) a chicken neck (or something safe for your sized dog). A wading pool if they are outside with a small amount of water (use with caution when puppies and young children area around). A soft toy or something soft to sleep on. You can leave the radio on and maybe a fan on if indoors. If you have a digging pit you can hide treats and you may wish to freeze some pet milk into ice cubes for a cool treat!

**Are you looking to bring a puppy into your family? Are you the proud new owner of a puppy?** Or would you like to know more about bite inhibition? Then go to the link below as these two free book downloads are available on our website; “Before you get your puppy” and “After you get your puppy.” Both by Dr Ian Dunbar and both are great books. Follow the link below; <http://www.clevercreatures.com.au/resources/information/> And don't forget to book puppy classes early – safe and well-run puppy classes (like ours!) can fill very quickly. Don't leave your puppy's future in unqualified hands.

**Until Next time, keep those tails wagging!**

**Merry Christmas from Sarah, Cayos, Mandy, Mellissa, Tandy & Joanna at Clever Creatures**