



# PVPC Newsletter

December 2024 Issue



## Staff Member of the Month

Merry Christmas everyone! For the month of December, we'd like you to meet Doreen as we celebrate her 11th workiversary with us.

You may not see much of Doreen around during open hours because she is solely our behind the scenes gal. Since December 2013, she has become a very trusted staff member of PVPC and is tasked every weekend to care for patients needing medical observation during closed hours. Before making her way to us, Doreen has traveled all over the globe and spent many years in dispatch until she retired. Although she came to us without veterinary medicine experience, her many years experience with owning disabled senior little dogs allowed her to quickly become one of our greatest assets in patient care. If you ever are in the situation of having to leave your pet in our hospital after hours, you will surely be able to seek comfort knowing your fur baby is in the caring hands of Doreen. As an added bonus, your pet will be thoroughly entertained while Doreen sings to them to ease their nerves.



As mentioned before, Doreen has many years experience caretaking for senior and disabled dogs so when she is not offering your pets comfort at the hospital, she is still running her at home senior center for mainly small breed dogs with a few large breed dogs in the mix. She has also made herself an outstanding friend to have for some of our local clients as she assists them in day-to-day life and caretaking for their pets. Over the last 11 years, Doreen has become a treasure for us at PVPC and we certainly wouldn't know what to do without her.



## Safe Toys & Gifts Month

'Tis the season of gift giving! In fact, 'tis the season to mark December the "Safe Toys and Gifts Month." Over the last several years pets have become more and more like our family members rather than just a "pet." Like any other family member, pets are now being showered with gifts over the holidays (and even birthdays) as a way for all of us pet owners to express our love to our furry friends. While giving gifts to our pets can bring so much joy to them and us, it's important to be cautious over what type of gifts we give them.

Not only are gifts a good way to show our affection to pets, but they provide great positive reinforcement as well as mental stimulation for our pets. However, there are many toys and special treats out there that aren't quite safe for our pets to have. When shopping for such items, it's important to understand that not all toys and/or treats were created with our animals' wellbeing in mind. As horrible as that seems, it doesn't necessarily mean you can't give your pet any of the toys that pet stores have on their shelves. It just means you have to consider a few things before purchasing them. When it comes to buying both toys and treats, the size of your pet, especially dogs, should be taken into consideration. Buying extra small toys and treats for your extra large dog poses a severe choking hazard. Many dogs gobble their snacks right up without chewing so if it's a small enough treat it can lodge itself at the back of their throats. Even small toys can be scooped up in a dog's mouth in a haste and can accidentally get stuck at the back of the throat. If both dogs and cats manage not to choke and swallow whole items not meant for their size, the new risk becomes an intestinal blockage that will more than likely require surgical

(cont. from Safe Toys, pg 1)

removal. So, to be safe, be sure to purchase toys and treats that are slightly too big for your pets mouths to prevent either of these scenarios.

Unfortunately, there are many pet toys in the world that pose a risk of intestinal blockage regardless of their size. Toys that have a lot of string material hanging off, plastic buttons for noses or eyes attached, and toys that are soft or full of stuffing inside are the main culprits for this critical situation. The easiest way to prevent intestinal blockages from occurring is to never give our pets these types of toys; however, we understand that's not always going to happen. All that can be recommended is minimizing your pets exposure to these types of toys especially when unsupervised. Otherwise there are many toys that may not be as visually exciting as the others that provide just as much stimulation for animals. If toys are not the way to your pets hearts and treats are the true calling, the biggest precaution to take is to make sure all ingredients are pet safe.

There are many food items that are toxic and can be damaging to the health of animals if consumed. If you're unsure what type of ingredients are safe and what are not, it's always strongly urged of you to do a little research before allowing your pets to enjoy special holiday treats. If you are in need of proper resources for researching safe ingredients for pet treats, you should always consult the staff at your regular veterinary office as they can typically point you in the right direction for trusted information.



#### A Note From PVPC

As we come to a close of the year, all of us here at PVPC would like to take a moment to thank each of our clients, new and long term, for all of your tremendous support. We truly could not do what we do without our wonderful clients and their pets. We wish everyone safe and the happiest of holidays!

Kival  
Shelby

Maggie MacQueen

Kaley Radner

Jamie

Amy

Doreen

Kelley

emily, CVA

David Johnson

Amelia Hartz

Evelynn

Sierra

tylene

Austin

Jessica, RVT

Nelcy

## Noodle's Cookbook



Hi all! I want to share with everyone safe treat recipes you can gift your fur babies with this Christmas. It is important to remember that treats should be limited and make up less than 10% of your pet's diet due to how high in calories they tend to be as well

as the risk of causing an upset stomach. Please find below some delicious treats you can make right in the comfort of your home.



### Apple & Banana Chewy Dog Treat

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup unsweetened apple sauce
- ¼ cup mashed banana
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tbsp coconut oil, melted
- ½ cup coconut flour

#### Instructions:

- Preheat your oven to 175°C (350°F) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, applesauce, and mashed bananas until well combined
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- Add the ground cinnamon and melted coconut oil, and mix well
- Gradually stir in the coconut flour and rolled oats, mixing until a thick moist dough forms
- Knead the dough by hand until smooth and uniform
- Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface to a thickness of about ¼ inch
- Use cookie cutters to cut out the dough into your desired shapes
- Place the treated on the prepared baking sheet and bake for 20-25 minutes or until lightly golden brown
- Remove from the oven and let cool completely before serving to your pup
- \*\*These treats can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for up to a week, or in the fridge for up to two weeks

### Feline Friendly Tuna Yums



#### Ingredients:

1 pound raw tuna

#### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 200F
2. Cut in 1" cubes then cut cubes in half (this makes them thin enough to dry without burning)
3. Put cubes in a single layer on an oven safe pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray
4. Bake in oven for several hours until dry or 'jerky like'. Turn the yums once to be sure that both sides get evenly dried.

\*\*Tuna yums aren't shelf stable for any length of time, but kept in fridge stay fresh for weeks. Large numbers of tuna yums can be kept in small batches in the freezer for longer term.

\*\*Tuna can be replaced with plain, skinless chicken breast