

Valentine's Day Safety Tips for Pets

Keep Your Pet's Brain & Body Safe During the Season of Love

Valentine's Day is a time for flowers, chocolate, candles, and celebrations, but many holiday traditions can pose serious risks to pets, especially those with neurologic conditions such as seizures, IVDD, brain disease, or mobility challenges. Use these tips to help keep your pet safe and comfortable.

Chocolate & Sweet Treats

Danger: Chocolate contains theobromine and caffeine, which are toxic to pets and can trigger seizures, tremors, and abnormal heart rhythms.

Neurology Tip: Even small amounts may lower the seizure threshold in pets with epilepsy.

Safety Tips:

- Keep all chocolate and candy securely out of reach
- Watch for sugar-free candies containing xylitol, which is extremely toxic
- Call your veterinarian or emergency clinic immediately if ingestion is suspected

Flowers & Plants

Danger: Many Valentine's flowers are toxic, including lilies (cats), tulips, daffodils, and roses (thorns).

Neurology Tip: Vomiting or toxin exposure can worsen neurologic signs or interfere with seizure medications.

Safety Tips:

- Avoid placing bouquets where pets can access them
- Clean up fallen petals and leaves promptly
- Choose pet-safe plants when possible

Decorations, Wrappings & Toys

Danger: Ribbons, string, balloons, and cellophane can cause choking or intestinal blockage.

Neurology Tip: Emergency surgery or anesthesia can be higher risk for pets with neurologic disease.

Safety Tips:

- Dispose of wrapping materials promptly
- Supervise play with new toys
- Avoid long strings or elastic items

Candles & Open Flames

Danger: Curious or unsteady pets may knock over candles, leading to burns or fires.

Neurology Tip: Pets with balance issues, weakness, or vision loss are at higher risk for injury.

Safety Tips:

- Use flameless LED candles instead
- Never leave burning candles unattended
- Keep candles well out of reach

Medications & Gifts

Danger: Pain medications, antidepressants, and supplements may be accidentally dropped or shared.

Neurology Tip: Many human medications can cause seizures, sedation, or neurologic toxicity in pets.

Safety Tips:

- Store all medications securely
- Never give human medications to pets unless directed by a veterinarian
- Watch gift bags and purses closely

Changes in Routine & Excitement

Danger: Guests, travel, and schedule changes can increase stress.

Neurology Tip: Stress and sleep disruption can trigger seizures or pain episodes.

Safety Tips:

- Maintain regular medication and feeding schedules
- Provide a quiet, familiar space
- Use calming aids only if approved by your veterinarian