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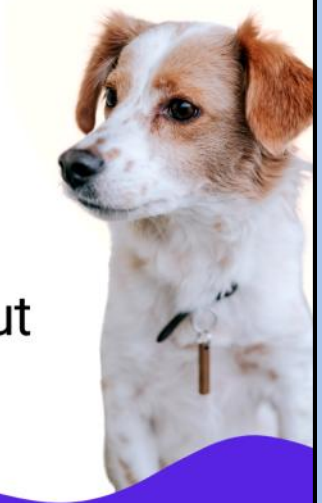

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Christmas/Holiday Cards

The first official Christmas card debuted in 1843 England with the simple message, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." The idea of a mailed winter holiday greeting gradually caught on in both Britain and the U.S., with the Kansas City-based Hall Brothers (now Hallmark) creating a folded card sold with an envelope in 1915. Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, more than 1.6 billion holiday cards are sold annually.

Did you know . . . !

Decorated Christmas trees date back to Germany in the Middle Ages, with German and other European settlers popularizing Christmas trees in America by the early 19th century. A New York woodsman named Mark Carr is credited with opening the first U.S. Christmas tree lot in 1851.

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HOLIDAY TRIVIA

*Poinsettias - America's Christmas flower, these plants native to Central America were brought to the United States (and given their name) by the country's first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, botanist Joel Roberts Poinsett, in the 1820s. It was a California horticulturist named Paul Ecke who brought the traditionally red and green plants to the masses 100 years later. He donated the plants to TV shows, and, according to the Los Angeles Times, the poinsettia became the best-selling potted plant in the nation by 1986. But lest we forget, these flowers are also poisonous to pets, so keep them out of harm's reach!

*Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" was first published on Dec 17th, 1843.

*The Christmas turkey first appeared on English tables in the 16th century, but didn't immediately replace the traditional fare of goose, beef or boar's head in the rich households.

*In many Scandinavian countries they build a Christmas animal in the center of the town, usually a goat. This Christmas goat is often called the Yule goat.

*While Thomas Edison and his assistant, Edward H. Johnson may have been the first to create electric strands of lights in 1880, it was Albert Sadacca who saw a future in selling electric Christmas lights.

*The first known decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.

*Gingerbread Houses - Although Queen Elizabeth I gets credit for the early decorating of gingerbread cookies, once again, it's the Germans who lay claim to starting the gingerbread house tradition. And when the German Brothers Grimm wrote "Hansel and Gretel" a new holiday tradition was born.

Cinnamon is synonymous with Christmas and cookies! From the bark of a tree, it is one of the oldest known spices. Arab traders brought it to Europe from China in 1700 B.C. Its sweet, warm flavor makes it one of the most important baking spices.

Some U.S. Christmas History

1775: The term "eggnog" is an American term introduced in 1775, consisting of the words "egg" and "nog", with "nog" meaning "strong ale". The first example of the term "eggnog" was when Maryland clergyman and philologist Jonathan Boucher wrote a poem about the drink which was not published until 30 years after his death.

1864: General Sherman sent President Lincoln a telegram saying, “I beg to present to you as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah”.

1931: Construction workers started the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree tradition in 1931.

1958: President Eisenhower broadcast his Christmas message from America’s first orbiting satellite, the Atlas.

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PAW-SCOPES

DOGS:

No one said it was easy being the DOG! And especially during the holiday times. Why our humans try to keep all the good stuff away from us is beyond comprehension. All we want is to have some fun! Let's hope we get some great doggie treats this year!

CATS:

At this time of year, it's great being a cat. There's always plenty of stuff to play with, especially those glittery hanging strings and balls from the new inside tree. - and the branches are great for jumping on too, although our humans don't like it much!

SILLY JOKES

Sleepwalking Dog

A dog sleepwalks into a bar. He tells the bartender, "ZZZZ I'm a cat ZZZZ I'm a cat." The bartender says "Yes, sir you are." The sleepwalking dog leaves and a patron says, "Why did you agree with him? That dog's not a cat!!" The bartender replies, "You gotta let sleeping dogs lie."

Check Up

A woman took her Labrador Retriever to the veterinarian's office for a checkup.
The vet told her the dog was a little overweight.
The owner wanted a second opinion.
The vet replied, "He's got a lovely coat!"

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VICTORIAN POSTMEN

Postmen in Victorian England were popularly called "Robins." This was because their uniforms were red. The British Post Office grew out of the carrying of Royal dispatches. Red was considered a Royal color, so uniforms and letter-boxes were red. Christmas cards often showed a red robin delivering Christmas mail.

Did you know . . . !

The Nutcracker Ballet premiered Dec 18th, 1892, in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was performed for the first time outside of Russia in 1934 in England, and made its way to the United States in 1944 when it was performed by the San Francisco Ballet. It became a must-see event in America in the 1960s, as performances spread across the nation.

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Did you know . . . !

*The Puritans of New England passed a series of laws making any observance of Christmas illegal, thus banning Christmas celebrations for part of the 17th century. A Massachusetts law of 1659 punished offenders with a hefty five shilling fine.

Weird Cat Law:

In Duluth, Minnesota, cats are not allowed to sleep in a bakery. While this may sound restrictive to a cat, it may be a food safety issue, unless of course you enjoy bread made by a cat!

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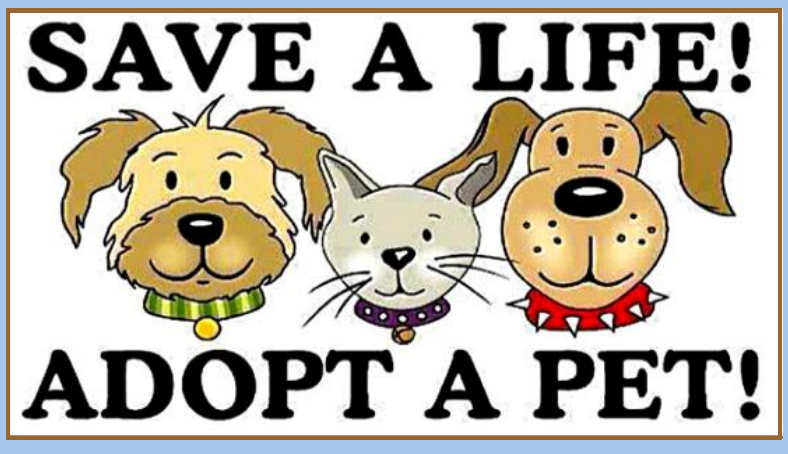

Did you know . . . !

*The abbreviation of Xmas for Christmas is not irreligious. The first letter of the word Christ in Greek is chi, which is identical to our X. Xmas was originally an ecclesiastical abbreviation that was used in tables and charts.

*In 1822, Clement C. Moore's gift to his children was the poem "The Night Before Christmas". This poem has been called "arguably the best-known verses ever written by an American" and is responsible for many of the popular conceptions of Santa Claus from the mid-nineteenth century to today.

*In Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of summer and the temperature often hits a sweltering 100 degrees Fahrenheit on Christmas day. During this warm Australian Christmas season, outdoor barbecues have become a part of the Christmas tradition.

QUIZ

1. What Christmas Decoration is inspired by spiders?
2. Who was the first English monarch to have a Christmas tree?
3. Which famous mathematician was born on Christmas Day in 1642?
4. When was Christmas declared as a Federal holiday in the USA?
5. What type of dogs did Cruella De Vil want to turn into a coat?
6. In Which two oceans would you find a “Christmas Island?

Answers:

1. Tinsel. 2. Queen Victoria. 3. Sir Isaac Newton.
4. 1870. 5. Dalmatians . 6. Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 25 days!

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow!

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? A Holly Davidson!

What did Santa do when he went speed dating? He pulled a cracker!

Why was the turkey in the pop group? Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas Quacker!

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backwards!

What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

What do snowmen wear on their heads? Ice caps!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? "It's Christmas, Eve!"

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsilitis!

What do you get if you cross a Christmas tree with an apple? A pineapple!

What type of key do you need for a Nativity play? A don-key!

Why wouldn't the cat climb the Christmas tree? It was afraid of the bark.

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If there are other Veterinary Services we may have missed, please let us know so they can be included in this list.

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Click on location links to go to respective websites

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California Fish Grill	24201 Valencia Blvd , SC	661-291-1518
Bricks	23820 Lyons Ave, SC	661-286-1091
VALENCIA		
Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar	24201 Valencia Blvd , VL	661-253-9996
Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ	24201 W Valencia Blvd, VL	661-255-1227
Marston's Restaurant	24011 Newhall Ranch Rd VL	661-253-9910
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On the first day of Hanukkah my true love gave to me,
Lox, bagels and some cream cheese.

On the second day of Hanukkah my true love gave to me,
2 Kosher pickles and
Lox, bagels and some cream cheese.

On the third day of Hanukkah my true love gave to me,
3 pounds of corned beef
2 Kosher pickles and
Lox, bagels and some cream cheese.

On the forth day of Hanukkah my true love gave to me,
4 potato latkes
3 pounds of corned beef
2 Kosher pickles and
Lox, bagels and some cream cheese.

On the fifth day of Hanukkah my true love gave to me,
5 bowls of chicken soup
4 potato latkes
3 pounds of corned beef
2 Kosher pickles and
Lox, bagels and some cream cheese.

On the sixth day of Hanukkah my true love gave to me,
6 pickled herrings
5 bowls of chicken soup
4 potato latkes
3 pounds of corned beef
2 Kosher pickles and
Lox, bagels and some cream cheese.

On the seventh day of Hanukkah my true love gave to me,
7 noodle kugels
6 pickled herrings
5 bowls of chicken soup
4 potato latkes
3 pounds of corned beef
2 Kosher pickles and
Lox, bagels and some cream cheese.

On the eighth day of Hanukkah my true love gave to me,
8 Alka-Seltzer
7 noodle kugels
6 pickled herrings
5 bowls of chicken soup
4 potato latkes
3 pounds of corned beef
2 Kosher pickles and
Lox, bagels and some cream cheese

Hanukkah Jokes

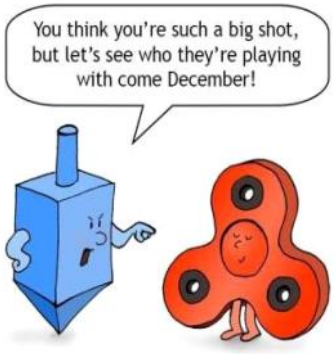
Q: Why did the boy put his Hanukkah money in the freezer?
A: Because he wanted cold hard cash.
Q: How can you recognize a Hanukkah hippie?
A: He's the one with his hair in dreidel-locks.

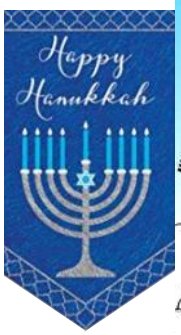
---

*A latke gave his mother a gift.
As he did so, she said to him, "Awww, why are you so sweet?"
He replied, "I guess that's just the way I yam."

Noah is always teasing his little brother Jacob. One day he shows his friends what he does: he offers Jacob a choice between a nickel and a dime and when he does Jacob always chooses the nickel.
One of Noah's friends feels sorry for Jacob so he takes him to one side and says, "You know, Noah is making fun of you. Even though the nickel is bigger, the dime is worth more."
Jacob laughs and says, "I know that but if I took the dime, they'd stop doing it. So far, I've made $20!"

My mother once gave me two sweaters for Hanukkah. The next time we visited, I made sure to wear one. As we entered her home, instead of the expected smile, she said, "Aaron, what's the matter? You didn't like the other one?"





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Top Cat was an American animated sitcom produced by Hanna-Barbera Productions in the 1960's.

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If you have a Pet Store in any of our areas and want to be included, please contact us: info@petzgazette.com

Help Pets Have A Holly Jolly Holiday Season

For dogs and cats, the holidays are full of mysterious packages, exciting objects in the home and of course tempting foods. These easy suggestions and solutions will help you and your pet have a joyous holiday season!

Tree Temptations.

Christmas trees, whether real or fake, can be irresistible to dogs and cats. Place a barrier around the tree, such as a baby gate or pen, to keep cats from climbing or a curious dog from the packages underneath.

Pet Participation.

Include pets in the holidays as much as they want to be involved. While you are wrapping presents try giving a cardboard wrapping paper tube as a fun pet play thing.

Party Time. Prevent begging and curb interest in tempting party treats and drinks with puzzle toys that can help keep your pet occupied. During the festivities, consider setting up a sanctuary room allowing pets to opt-out of the commotion.

Festival of Food. Winter holidays gatherings include feasts and some pets won't want to be left out. Monitor and secure food scraps and the garbage to keep pets from risky items such as meat wrappings and fatty trimmings.

Decoration Distractions.

Pet parents should avoid decorating with tinsel. Place fragile and dangly decorations out of reach for pets. Open flames such as candles should never be left unattended.

Fa-La-La-La Pheromones. Pets can be overwhelmed and noise-sensitive during the holidays, especially loud celebrations like New Years. Synthetic pheromones can spread good cheer though plug-in diffusers, sprays or wipes helping pets through the hectic holidays.

Happy Safe Holidays!

HOLIDAY MEMES

Wrapping Presents with Dogs

1. Gather presents, boxes, paper, etc. in middle of living room floor.
2. Get tape back from puppy.
3. Remove scissors from older dog's mouth.
4. Open box.
5. Take puppy out of box.
6. Remove tape from older dog's mouth.
7. Take scissors away from puppy.
8. Put present in box.
9. Remove present from puppy's mouth.
10. Put back in box after removing puppy from box.
11. Take puppy OFF box.
12. Cut paper being careful not to cut puppy's foot or nose that is getting in the way as he "helps."
13. Let puppy tear remaining paper.
14. Take puppy off box again.
15. Wrap paper around box.
16. Tell older dog to fetch the tape so he will stop stealing it.
17. Take scissors away from puppy.
18. Take tape older dog is holding.
19. Quickly tape one spot before taking scissors from older dog & sitting on them again.
20. Fend off puppy trying to steal tape & tape another spot.
21. Go get roll of wrapping paper puppy ran off with.
22. Take scissors from older dog who took them when you got up.
23. Remove puppy from present & hurriedly slap tape on to hold the paper on.
24. Take soggy bow from puppy & tape on since the sticky stuff no longer sticks.
25. Grab present before puppy opens it & put it away.
26. Clean up mess puppy & older dog made playing tug-of-war with remnants of wrapping paper.
27. Put away rest of wrapping supplies & tell dogs what good helpers they are.

Happy Wrapping!

Happy Holidays
From all of us at
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& ENJOY
THE HOLIDAYS!

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