

MEDIA RELEASE

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How to keep your furry friends safe for a purr-fect Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time to unwind and indulge in some of our favourite treats. While they may not be the best for our waistline, our body can still digest them properly, unlike our furry friends.

Our pets often get our Christmas scraps, but not all treats should be shared with our cats and dogs.

This Christmas period, Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett is urging all pet owners and carers to be vigilant and understand what foods their beloved animals can and can't eat.

"Council want to ensure the pets of our region also have a happy and healthy festive season," Councillor Burnett said.

"There's certain Christmas goodies that dogs and cats should not eat."

Some of the foods that are off the menu for cats and dogs this year are:

- Avocado
- Large amounts of onions, chives and garlic
- Macadamia nuts
- Grapes
- Sultanas, raisins and currants
- Chocolate
- Coffee and caffeine
- Alcohol
- Cooked bones
- Fatty foods
- Foods containing xylitol (artificial sweetener)
- Fruits seeds and pits

Councillor Burnett also asked the community to be conscious of gifts they're buying pet owners around this time.

"Some essential oils and certain types of plants and flowers can also be toxic, so I encourage pet owners to do some research about what could be harmful to their animals."

Deputy Mayor Chris Trevor also encouraged pet owners to keep their pet safe during the holiday period.

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“If pet owners are going away and leaving their pets at home, please ensure you have a reliable pet sitter, or your pet is placed in a kennel or cattery,” Councillor Trevor said.

“Also make sure your animals are registered with Council and have a current ID with up to date contact details.

“The Christmas and New Year period also brings a lot of noise with it, with both fireworks and the storm season,” Cr Trevor said.

“Make sure you have the appropriate systems in place to help your animal through those times.”

If your dog fears loud noises, Council recommends the following during storms or fireworks:

- Place your dog in a dark room or enclosed area
- Take your dog to another home where the noise won't be heard
- Don't tie your dog up in the yard as it may injure itself trying to get free
- Try not to comfort your dog during storms or fireworks as it reinforces its fear
- Ensure your dog is registered and is wearing its registration tag in case it flees in fright