

are not tempted by the smells. Burn candles in places that are inaccessible to your pets. Barr points out that liquid potpourri can cause chemical burns to the mouth and esophagus which can be very painful and dangerous for any pet if ingested.

Lastly, please avoid giving pets as presents without consulting the receiver of the gift first. Animal shelters see an increase of donations directly after the holidays from short lived pet owners.

“While pets as presents may make for a popular parent, it is a well-known fact that shelter populations increase after the holidays as there are a lot of those pets that are surrendered because a family is unprepared for them,” explains Barr. “If you are considering a pet as a gift, use the opportunity to visit a shelter and adopt a deserving pet from there. It can be a wonderful opportunity where the giver and the receiver will gain a lot more from the experience.”

If you believe that your pet has ingested a toxic substance, please call: Pet Poison Helpline at 1-800-213-6680 or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435. As always, the Texas A&M University Small and Large Animal Hospitals are always open for animal emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

ABOUT PET TALK

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the Web at <http://tamunews.tamu.edu>.