



**West Chelsea
Veterinary's**

TIPS & TAILS



News & Tips You Can Use From Your Friends at West Chelsea Veterinary

Holiday & New Year

Wishing You a Happy Holiday Season and Prosperous New Year!

Year after year, holiday festivities bring food and gift-bearing family and friends together. While it should be a jolly time for all, did you know it can be a dangerous time for our furry family members? Along with the holiday buzz, come new, interesting, and sometimes troublesome items for pets to explore.



4 Ways to Pet-Proof the Holidays and Beyond

 Keep toxic plants (lilies, poinsettias, mistletoe and holly) out of your pet's reach.

 Ribbons, tinsel, batteries, glass ornaments, and the ingestion of small toys can cause harm to the mouth, tongue, and the rest of the gastrointestinal tract.

 Fertilizers, often added to Christmas tree water, can cause stomach upset.

 Pets can easily get tangled in strings of holiday lights becoming injured, as a result. Chewing on these cords can cause electrical shock and in the worst cases, electrocution.



If you suspect that your pet has ingested something poisonous, seek medical attention immediately by calling us at 212-645-2767 or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 1-888-4 ANI-HELP.

**2008 is Almost Over! Has Your Pet Been In For Their Annual Wellness Exam?
An Ounce of Prevention Can Make All The Difference!**



Congratulations Aileen!

Licensed Veterinary Technician, Aileen Avalos, has been a valued part of the West Chelsea Veterinary team for almost seven years. This year, the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) honored Aileen with an invitation to submit case studies for publishing in their prestigious industry magazine.



Aileen Avalos, LVT

Aileen accepted, and submitted a piece focusing on the many advancements made in pain management techniques in veterinary medicine. The piece was published in the Fall, 2008 edition of NAVTA's national publication for veterinary technicians. "I'm so proud to be a part of a team that places such great value in continuing education and clinical experience. At West Chelsea Vet, we are consistently striving to make sure that our patients receive the best treatment and care, with the most stressless and comfortable recovery possible," says Aileen.

Senior Care

We humans comment on how the years fly by, but did you know our pets enter their golden years much earlier than their human counterparts? Around age seven, pets may begin to develop health conditions typical to seniors. Regular wellness exams can help identify such issues in their early stages, many of which are easily treatable.

Health Changes to Pay Attention to:

- Difficulty Climbing or Jumping
- Change in Activity Level
- Signs of Discomfort
- Changes in Eating, Drinking, Sleeping, or Housetraining Habits
- Changes in Coat and Skin or the Development of New Growths
- Bad Breath, Swollen Gums, or Drooling
- Vomiting, Weight Loss/Gain

