

Holiday Tips from Doggone Safe

Tips for Dog Owners

- Put the dog in his crate or in a room away from the action with a bone or favorite chew toy, at least during the most hectic times – guests arriving and leaving as well as dinner preparation and serving.
- Give him a juicy bone from the butcher, a sterilized bone or Kong stuffed with hotdog, Rollover or other soft dog treats or a pre-stuffed bone from the pet store.
- Play music or leave a TV or radio playing in the dog's room to help mask the sounds of the activity going on elsewhere.
- Assign one adult to be in charge of the dog, to watch for signs of stress and protect from unwanted attention from children.
- Signs of stress include:
 - The dog yawns or licks his chops.
 - The dog shows the white part of his eye in a half moon shape.
- If the dog shows any of these signs, then he is worried and wants to be left alone. Put the dog in his crate or in a room away from the guests with a favorite chew toy or bone.
- If you have multiple dogs, consider kenneling them, crating them or keeping them in another room the entire time during large gatherings.

Tips for Parents

- Assign one adult to supervise each baby or toddler with no other tasks expected.
- Do not allow children to hug the dog. Dogs don't like hugs and kisses. Even if the dog tolerates this under normal circumstances he may not tolerate this from strangers or in a high stress situation with lots of noise and people.
- If the dog licks his chops, yawns or shows the half moon eye when a child approaches or is petting him, intervene immediately and ensure that the child cannot access the dog.
- Other signs that the dog does not welcome attention from children (or adult) guests include the following:
 - The dog turns his head away, walks away or tries to hide under furniture.
 - The dog freezes and becomes very still, with his mouth closed. He may be staring intensely at the person who is bothering him and may growl. This dog is a few seconds away from a bite.
 - The dog growls or raises the fur along his back.
- Supervise at all times.

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