

# NOOK & CRANNY

Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021

*Holiday*  
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## HOLIDAY READINESS

Need a hand when prepping for the holiday madness that is upon us?

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## PET SAFETY & THE HOLIDAYS

We all the festivities of the holidays, and our pets are part of the tradition, let's keep them safe....

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## COOKIE DECORATING

Need some tips for holiday sugar cookies and decorating? Get the whole family to join in!

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TAKE A MOMENT TO STOP  
AND ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!

## Prepping For The Holidays

When December hits, you're panicked by the thought of where do I start? Are guests coming? Where are the decorations? Do I need to update them? A lot of questions can be plaguing you and causing stress. Here's a quick list to follow and you'll have everything done in no time.

- Get into the spirit of the season. Bring out the holiday decor, and give items that have gathered a year's worth of dust a quick once-over with a blow dryer.
- Put up the holiday greenery and the Christmas tree. Put finishing touches on the holiday decor: Check light strands for duds and replace the burn-outs with new bulbs.
- Prepare the guest room for your holiday visitors. Make sure you create an inviting, welcoming have with everything your guests need to enjoy your home, family, and holidays.
- Create a gift-wrap central - To simplify holiday gift wrapping, set up your present-prep center as the pros do - with everything you'll need in a single, well-organized area. A gift wrap organizer can help you keep it all together - neatly.
- Give the kids a job they will enjoy. Let them create and organize the holiday tunes playlist. Give them the entertaining guidelines: classic holiday tunes for a family dinner; upbeat seasonally inspired dance tunes for the holiday cocktail party, a mix for Christmas Eve or Christmas day entertaining.
- And when the kids are through organizing the holiday music, get them to create a holiday movie classics playlist for everyone's future viewing pleasure while the relatives are in town. Any backtalk, remind them that Santa's making a list...



Let's throw this day to the dogs! Not just any dog, though. Today, we toast to the mixed breeds of the world, so raise your water bowls high ... because this one's for the mutts!

There are no ifs, ands, or mutts about it — December 2 is National Mutt Day, and we're here to celebrate. In fact, we love this day so much, we celebrate it twice year. The next National Mutt Day is July 31!





## COOKIE DECORATING TIPS

Now is the time that marathon cookie baking takes place for the holidays. Sugar cookies ARE for Christmas! If you're intimidated by these lovelies that melt in your mouth, then I've got some tips for success.

The recipe is essential, or you can purchase a roll of ready-to-bake sugar cookies in the refrigerated aisle at your grocers. If you are looking for an easy success recipe, then click this [link](#).

Here's a list of items you'll need -

- **cookie cutters** – I love this set. It has a snowflake, gingerbread man, Christmas tree, snowman, and more!
- **couplers** – only needed if you're using the same icing color, but need to switch tips.
- **icing bags** – I prefer the 16 inch size for decorating.
- **gel food coloring** – get the whole set. I love these colors for royal icing, cake batter, frosting, etc. They're high pigmented so you don't need as much coloring.
- round piping tips

This [article](#) will give you all the information you need to be a success at Sugar Cookies for the holidays.



## Pet Safety & Holidays

As we enter the December festivities, our families gather and this means the 4-legged members also.

Here are a few pet safety tips:

- **Toxic Plants** - During the holidays, plants play a prominent role in festive decorations. However, there are some types of decorative plants that are toxic to dogs and cats. In some cases, only mild indigestion and discomfort will result; in other cases, the toxicity can lead to more severe health problems, and even fatalities.
- **Pets and Xmas Ornaments** - Curious pets are often attracted to **ornaments** hanging from the Christmas tree. Treasured ornaments should be hung high up on the Christmas tree, so they are out of the reach of curious cats and rambunctious dogs. Wooden, metal, resin-cast or other durable ornaments should be used on the lower branches. Or, for your pet's safety, avoid placing any ornaments on the lower branches of the Christmas tree.
- **Toys & Batteries** - If a pet chews on a hard plastic toy, they risk breaking their teeth. Batteries and board games contain zinc, which can cause pancreatitis and renal damage is ingested by a pet.

If you suspect that your dog or cat may have eaten a foreign object, visit your family veterinarian or your nearest emergency veterinary hospital for an examination and possibly x-rays.