



**December 2022**

**The Schaferhunde News  
The German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater Kansas City  
Founded 1923**

**2022 Officers**

**President-Debbie McHenry  
Vice President-Sally Hamm  
Treasurer-Mike Kennedy  
Recording Secretary-Jeanne Harmon**

**2022 Board Members**

**Nancy Kennedy  
Jose Lemus**

**Lynette Stone  
Ken Sanders  
Iryna Sanders**

**President's Message:**

Happy Holidays, hope you had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Christmas and New Years with your loved ones. We are planning our last event for 2022 on December 11th at Zarda BBQ in Kansas at 1pm. Please let Ken and Iryna know if you are coming, it should be fun to have great BBQ and laugh at all the White Elephant gift exchanges. I'm looking forward to a BIG year in 2023 when we will celebrate our 100th year Anniversary as a regional club! We are planning to make it a great one! We are looking for old newsletters, catalogs, GSDCA Reviews or even pictures of members from years gone by. We would like to make a slide show to present at our Futurity Weekend. If you have talent in this area and would like to help, let me know!

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Our condolences to the family and friends of Nancy McClure who passed away earlier this week.

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## Upcoming events

The Awards/Holiday Dinner will take place on December 11, 2022 at the Zarda BBQ Restaurant 11931 West 87th Street Parkway, Lenexa, KS; 1pm - 4pm. We will enjoy a Dutch Treat lunch where members may order from the regular menu. RSVP to Ken and Iryna Sanders [ken\\_ira@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ken_ira@sbcglobal.net) Any members who would like to participate in the gift exchange they should bring a White Elephant gift (approx. \$10 range) wrapped/gift bag. Awards/titles earned in 2022 should be submitted through the website. This event must have a minimum of 20 reservations to pay for the use the room at Zarda, please send your RSVP to Ken and Iryna early!

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## BRAGS

### Tammy Peterson

So it's not an AKC event but Hadass placed group 1st Saturday and Sunday at the Midwest Dog Fanciers UKC show in Pleasant Hill, MO this weekend. Judges were Barbara Burns and Karen Hynek



Please send your brags to me, Tammy Peterson at [ibperfect1@icloud.com](mailto:ibperfect1@icloud.com)



**German Shepherd Dog Club of America**

If you're not already a member of the GSDCA, you should join. There is very informative articles, what's happening with our breed, show schedules, etc.

<https://www.gsdca.org/>

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**Laura with The Dogs' Spot mentioned that they do Dog of the Month every month.**

We pick a winner at the beginning of the month and they are featured on our Waggin' Trail Facebook page and receive a prize from The Dogs' Spot. They can enter at [www.nkcparksandrec.org/dogofthemoth](http://www.nkcparksandrec.org/dogofthemoth).

nkcparksandrec.org/dogofthemoth.' At the bottom right, there are two logos: 'WAGGIN' TRAIL PARK' with a paw print and 'The Dogs' Spot Dog Training Center' with a dog head and a bone."/>

**FEELIN' LUCKY?**  
**ENTER TO BE DOG OF THE MONTH!**

Winner will be featured on Waggin' Trail's Facebook Page and receive Beer Paw's Peanut Butter Flavor Beer Biscuits.

Enter at [nkcparksandrec.org/dogofthemoth](http://nkcparksandrec.org/dogofthemoth).

WAGGIN' TRAIL PARK

The Dogs' Spot  
Dog Training Center

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### Christmas Safety for Dogs

Christmas time is an occasion for fun and merriment for all the family – including your dog! But unfortunately, there are lots of potential dangers and stressors for your dog at this time. If you want to make sure your dog's happy and safe this Christmas, read our guide.

The Christmas period is a time of great fun for all the family and that (usually) includes your dog too! There are many dogs who love to celebrate the holidays with us and spend all the time getting up to mischief – like sneaking your Christmas treats or collapsing the tree – and while this may all seem like good fun; the festive season can also bring a wealth of potential hazards that you'll need to be on the lookout for.

With Christmas on the way, you may be wondering how to ensure your dog's Christmas is just as merry as your own, which is why we've created this guide on keeping your dog safe and happy this holiday.

## **Dogs and Christmas trees**

As you know, one of the biggest Christmas traditions involves bringing a tree into your home, and to your dog, this is a dream come true. Your four-legged friend will look at this tree and their eyes will light up at the thought of unlimited sticks to chomp and if you have a male dog, they may see it as an excellent new spot to have a wee. Some pet owners will be lucky enough to own a pup that's unphased by this new addition, but if you have a dog that just can't resist, you'll need a dog-proof Christmas tree. Here's what to look for.

### **Fairy lights**

One of the dangerous elements to dogs and Christmas trees is the twinkling lights wrapped around them. They may look harmless, but some dogs think of the wires as shiny new chew toys – which is most common with younger dogs or puppies. Also, if you have a particularly boisterous pup that likes to play, they may get tangled up in the wires.

An easy way to prevent your dog getting hurt by your Christmas tree lights is to cable tie any loose wires and then always disconnect from the mains when you go out. Alternatively, if you want to leave your lights on all the time, opt for battery operated ones instead and make sure that you place the battery pack in a place your dog can't reach.

### **Baubles and hanging decorations**

Another way to dog-proof Christmas trees is to make sure you're only buying safe decorations. Avoid tinsel and angel hair on your tree as when consumed, they can cause a blockage in your dog's stomach. Glass baubles are also a bad idea if you have a boisterous dog, as they may shatter which could potentially harm your pet. Instead opt for non-toxic plastic decorations.

If you have more expensive ornaments which are essential decorations for your tree, place them near the top of the tree where your dog and their wagging tail can't reach them. Also, don't put edible decorations such as chocolates or candy canes on the tree as they're highly toxic to dogs and many won't be able to resist.

### **Tipping the Christmas tree over**

dog getting Christmas presents

If your dog just loves to play with your tree, you'll probably need a solution to stop it from crashing down in the middle of your living room. The best way to do this is to either purchase a weighted base or attach weights to the bottom to keep it safely in place. Alternatively, if you want to be extra safe, you can anchor it to your ceiling or wall instead.

### **Presents under the tree**

Where a Christmas tree surrounded by wrapped presents with bows on top may be a wondrous sight, it may prove too great a temptation for your dog. Keep presents out of sight until the day, then always make sure your dog's supervised with them – otherwise they may help themselves to a gift or two! Never put your dog's Christmas presents under the tree either, they definitely won't be patient or wait until the day to sniff out any tasty treats.

### **Are Christmas trees poisonous to dogs?**

Yes, some fir trees produce oils which are mildly toxic and if ingested could cause your dog to vomit or excessively drool. Additionally, the sharp tips of trees bring an extra cause of concern as there's a mild risk that if ingested, the needles can cause internal damage.

However, it is rare for a dog to eat enough of the tree to cause any issues.

If you want to get a real Christmas tree, it's best to opt for a non-drop variety because the loose needles can get stuck in your dog's paws which can be very painful. Also, due to the mild toxicity of some Christmas trees, it's best to place it in a separate room in the home where your dog won't be able to access it when they're unsupervised.

### **Other dog Christmas hazards**

It's not just the Christmas tree that can be a hazard during the festive period, but there's plenty of other things you need to watch out for too.

#### **Christmas foods**

There's lots of Christmas foods which are poisonous or toxic to your dog, including chocolates, grapes, sultanas and raisins (present in Christmas puddings and mince pies). A lot of dog owners think feeding them a bit of chicken or turkey is a nice gift, but these scraps can contain tiny bones which are dangerous – always check the meat thoroughly before feeding to your dog. If you want to give your dog Christmas dinner, read our article for information on what you can and can't include.

#### **Festive flowers**

Festive plants and flowers look stunning in our homes, but unfortunately a lot of these plants are toxic to dogs. Poinsettia, which is used in many wreaths and arrangements can cause stomach and mouth irritation, while holly and European mistletoe berries are also toxic and can cause stomach upset. American mistletoe on the other hand is highly poisonous. Additionally, ivy which is commonly used in wreaths can cause sickness and skin irritation like contact dermatitis.

## Anatomy of a German Shepherd



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Have a blessed day