



## **Media Release**

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### **TOXIC TREATS NOT ON MENU FOR PETS THIS CHRISTMAS**

A leading Gold Coast vet is reminding pet owners to be on the look-out for 'kind' visitors sneaking toxic treats like chocolate and ham to their dogs.

Senior Veterinarian Dr John Rigley of The Point Vet said with the Christmas holidays just around the corner, pet owners needed to be hyper-vigilant towards their animals' health and safety.

"The average person would certainly be unaware of the toxicity of certain foods for dogs and cats," said the Paradise Point-based vet.

"Although it is tempting to slip the family pet some food under the table or even let them finish the scraps from your plate, there are many foods that are perfectly healthy for humans yet extremely dangerous for pets. Often it is those 'kind' visitors who pop over for a meal and think they are doing the right thing by giving your pet a treat, but sadly those treats can be toxic and even kill."

Foods to avoid giving pets include chocolate, garlic, onions, grapes, raisins, milk and dairy products, eggs, and salty snacks. In addition, people should avoid giving dogs pork or poultry bones as they run the risk of getting lodged in the dog's throat or puncturing their digestive tract.

Dr Rigley said it was exceptionally important to watch pets near wrapped gifts.

"Pets can get into things that are within their reach. So, presents containing chocolate and small toys, that are seemingly harmless, are actually life threatening if ingested by your pet," he said.

"Another thing pet owners should avoid giving their dog is Christmas ham, as it can lead to pancreatitis."

Pet Angel Funerals Founder Tom Jorgensen said although the holidays were a great time to bring family and friends together, visitors that aren't 'pet savvy' posed a very real risk to the wellbeing of our furry friends.

"Every festive season we find there is an increase in the number of pets who have died just because someone has given them the wrong thing to eat," he said.

Along with the dietary restrictions for animals, Mr Jorgensen said pet owners should take the time to educate their visitors about the importance of closing doors and gates, especially if they have a pet with a history of running away.

"Dogs getting out of your home and then hit by cars, or drowning after falling in the pool because someone left the gate unlocked, is more common than you would think," said Mr Jorgensen.

"During the holidays, typically when we have the most visitors and some who may have little to no experience with animals, the likelihood of these threats is heightened.

"By taking a few extra precautionary measures, pet owners can be confident that they are doing the best they can to ensure their pet's health and wellbeing."

**MEDIA NOTE:** For more information or to interview Tom Jorgensen or Dr Rigley, please contact Wings Public Relations Director Deanna Nott on 0422 504 540 or [deanna@wingspr.com.au](mailto:deanna@wingspr.com.au)

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## **PET ANGEL FUNERALS**

Pet Angel Funerals is a family-owned business dedicated to helping pet owners say goodbye to their beloved animals with grace and dignity. Founded in 2015, it is one of the largest and most-trusted pet cremation services in Queensland, guaranteeing all cremations are personalised and individual. State-of-the-art crematories and custom-built facilities allow Pet Angel Funerals to focus on offering affordable and compassionate pet cremation services that aim to make the difficult grieving process as painless as possible. To find more information on how Pet Angel Funerals can be of support, visit [www.petangel.com.au](http://www.petangel.com.au).