

November is  
**SENIOR HEALTH MONTH!**

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### Dangerous Pet Hazards During The Holidays

www.vrcc.com

Poinsettias fill homes with color during the holiday and we all hear how they're life-threatening to pets. In fact, they're not very toxic to pets. They do contain a milky sap that can irritate the mouth but if signs develop they are usually mild. There are far more dangerous pet hazards during the holidays and the emergency veterinarians at VRCC Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital (www.vrcc.com) say these are 5 to watch out for this year—They are available to do interviews, can talk about specific cases and have visuals (x-rays, photos) surrounding these helpful tips.

**Decorations:** Tinsel, glass ornaments, spray on snow/flocking, foil, plastic wrap/shrink-wrap, Styrofoam peanuts and ribbon can all be life-threatening if eaten by your pet. Whether

lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines, these bad actors can cause a plethora of symptoms and may land your pet in the operating room.

**Mistletoe:** The plant, and particularly the berries, are extremely toxic to pets. The most severe cases can cause low blood pressure, stumbling and even seizures.

**Christmas Tree Food/Preservatives:** Got a real tree this year? Watch out. Veterinarians at VRCC say sugar-based tree preservatives and tree food/water can harbor dangerous bacteria and a thirsty dog or cat may decide to use the tree stand as a drinking bowl.

**Batteries:** It may be great to have batteries for that new, cool toy but chewing or swallowing batteries is

extremely toxic for pets. Acid burns from chewing and causing a leak in the battery are common as well as cuts from the metal casing. And what about smaller batteries, like AAA, that can easily be gulped down? They can cause internal burns and removal can require surgery.

**Potpourri:** The spicy smell can fill the house with a wonderful scent, but a pet can experience irritation and corrosion of the eyes, mouth, throat and esophagus if exposed to the liquid form.



### The SCOOP Around Town

**Canine Conduct** - New Session of Well Mannered Dog begins in Courtenay on Monday, November 28th at 6pm. and in Willow Point on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30pm. Gift Certificates Available! Now taking boarding bookings for Christmas.

**Woofy's Black Friday Sale.** All Stores. All Day. Sale Deals to Follow. The Biggest Sale Day of the Year. Friday Nov. 25.

**Woofy's Free Santa Pet Photo Schedule.** Our Willow Pt. location Saturday, December 3, 12:00 - 4:00pm, 250-923-5881. Our Ryan Rd. location Sunday, December 4, 12:00 - 4:00pm, 250-338-0424. Our Cliffe Ave. location Saturday, December 10, 12:00 - 4:00pm, 250-338-0455. Your last chance for the annual Pet Photo with Santa is in Comox Sunday, December 11, 12:00 - 4:00pm, 250-339-2272.

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# THE SCOOP ON PETS

Come on, you know  
you're a pet lover...  
take one, they're  
**FREE!!!**



Your Own Bi-Monthly  
Pet Publication

Issue No. 34  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER '11

The Scoop On Pets, Linda Graceffo, Publisher  
201-576 England Avenue, Courtenay, BC V9N 2N3 • 250.871.3323 • www.TheScoopOnPets.ca

### The SCOOP's Five Year In Publication Contest

The Scoop on Pets has been gracing pet owner's coffee tables for five years! Since November 2006, pet lovers have been getting tips from dog trainers, providers and health information from veterinarians, reading all about other people's special pets and laughing at silly pet jokes.

To celebrate this accomplishment, The Scoop on Pets is having a contest. If you've adopted your

pet from a local rescue society or someplace far away, we want to hear those positive experiences from you.

Here are the important details:

**What:** Dog or Cat Rescue Stories

**How:** Email 400 words (maximum) and a high resolution digital photo (jpg) of the pet in your story to [info@thescooponpets.ca](mailto:info@thescooponpets.ca). No phone calls please.

**Deadline:** Midnight of December 31, 2011.



The winner of the contest will have his/her story published on the front page of the March/April 2012 issue of The Scoop on Pets. They will also receive a gift basket which will include a \$50 gift certificate for The Old House Restaurant from The Scoop on Pets, \$50 gift certificate to spend at any location from Woofy's Pet Foods. Gifts and gift certificates from Canine Conduct, Inner Harmony Healing, Rocky's Dog Bones, etc. Welcome Wagon and more...



www.woofys.ca

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**The SCOOP Advertiser Profile**

**BoneFide Dog Coats in the Comox Valley**

Our company had its beginnings in 2005, when Janet began making dog coats for her own Bichon Frise Finnegan, for his many walks around the neighbourhood. Before long, neighbours and friends took notice of Finnegan's coat and began asking her if she could create coats for their own dogs.

As Janet has been a crafter/artisan for many years she saw this need by other dog owners and that inspired her to investigate making dog apparel and accessories as part of a new line in her craft business. By using fleece and vinyl fabrics and initially using commercial patterns, she was able to experiment with these materials until she came up with her own ideas and patterns to custom fit each dog.

Today, **BoneFide Dog Coats** makes a range of handmade coats for small and medium sized dogs, in a variety of high quality and washable fabrics. The aim of each dog coat is to protect the dog from the cold and wet weather, as well as the esthetic look that the dog owner demands.

Our coats are designed with practicality in mind. We make a vest-style of coat, with adjustable hook and loop fasteners, which is both easy for the owner to dress and remove. This style of coat is well tolerated by most

dogs, as it is non-restrictive and allows for ease of movement during walking, running, and play. We use two thicknesses of hypoallergenic fleece and for the raincoats, vinyl with fleece lining. All BoneFide products are made in a smoke-free environment.

**BoneFide Dog Coats** also produce bandannas, denim carriers called "Happy Sacks" for small dogs which are intended to be worn on the shoulder, as well as home-made dog biscuits and other pet related items. All of these products can be seen at the **Charles Dickens Christmas Craft Faire** held at the Florence Filberg Centre, Courtenay, on November 11, 12 and 13. For further information and to order a coat for your dog, you can contact Janet at bonefidedogcoats@gmail.com or visit her website at [www.handmadedogcoats.com](http://www.handmadedogcoats.com).



Bridie (front dog), Janet Campbell, and Hamish (back dog)

**Vancouver Island Animal Training Association**

**Submitted by Domena Diesing, President**

This year, the **Vancouver Island Animal Training Association, (VIATA)** was created and we welcome you to join! VIATA is an organization that encompasses professionals in the animal care field and pet owners who share our beliefs about animal welfare and care.

Our core value is the well-being of all animals we own, handle and/or train, either personally or professionally. With that vision in mind we promote humane, reward, and science-based methods when training, handling or managing any animal. Our aim is to increase the public's awareness of humane and reward-based treatment and training of animals through education, workshops, networking, and mentoring.

Reward-based humane methods have great short and long term benefits: In day to day life, humane behaviour management and care minimize distress in animals. Many methods, such as environmental enrichment through food-delivering toys, also allow an animal to express more of their natural biological programming and therefore enjoy a healthier and happier life. This also adds to the enjoyment of their owners and caregivers. In training, reward-based methods involve the animal as an active and successful partner. Several reward-based methods exist, including clicker and marker methods, free-shaping and lure-reward training. Rewards (treats, play, affection etc.)

shape desirable behaviours, quickly and effectively while minimizing avoidance responses in animals. At the same time, the animal can maximize learning and those of us around can delight in its cleverness.



The great body of scientific knowledge available to us gives a solid foundation for our choices in animal care, handling and training. It offers information about different species, their behaviour and needs. For example, what are the daily needs of a horse and how do they differ from a dog or a cat?

VIATA is a young and growing organization. We greatly welcome your interest, questions and membership inquiries either as an individual or professional. Professional members of VIATA sign a Code of Ethics, thereby agreeing to a high standard of humane care while working with animals.

F.M.I. please contact VIATA through [www.viata.ca](http://www.viata.ca), the VIATA facebook page. Our VIATA secretary is Madeleine Layton at mmlayton@gmail.com, 250-738-1015. You can contact me, VIATA President, Domena Diesing at domena@definitelydogs.ca or 250-752-2909. We look forward to hearing from you!  
Domena Diesing CPDT-KA.

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