



SOUTHWEST COLLIE RESCUE

Serving New Mexico, West Texas and Arizona

Winter 2017 newsletter

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Rhyannon, once an unwanted stray, could become the next national dock diving champion.

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Deck the halls — but protect your collies

Dogs are like kids, curious and exploring places and things that are not always safe for them.

Each year, the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center receives more than 200,000 calls about pet exposures to toxic substances. Many of these calls are related to common household products: prescription medicine, insecticides, human food, plants, rodenticides, and indoor and outdoor cleaners.

Even if you think you are being safe, have you ever had guests who might not have been used to a nosy dog? Perhaps they left a purse on the floor that contained chewing gum with xylitol, a highly toxic sweetener also found in many diet products, and even in sugar-free peanut butter. Or maybe they kept their medications on a nightstand, easily reached by a large dog or a small dog on the bed reaching over.

For that matter, have you ever

What the surgeon found inside Diego

Diego was just four months old, a lively collie pup with a big appetite, when he came to live with Shellie and David in Tucson.

A month later, at 1am on a Saturday night, Diego started vomiting. On Sunday he wouldn't eat. Very worried, Shellie and David took him to an emergency clinic. "Diego was still barfing bile in the emergency room," Shellie said. "We thought it was poisoning; the vet suggested an obstruction."

Sure enough, after seeing the X-rays, the vet said she'd have to cut Diego's stomach open. But even she was surprised to find a 16-inch braided leather rope toy.

"The surgery was like pulling



The top 5 toxic dangers for pets in your home

1. Drain cleaner
2. Sugar-free gum
3. Laundry detergent
4. Over-the-counter pain relievers
5. Chocolate

Source: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center

left a corn cob on a plate, or finished a peach or apricot and left the pit wrapped in a napkin within reach of your dogs?

Even though collies and Shelties aren't among the top ten breeds the Poison Center gets called about (Labs are #1), they're not immune to potential trouble.

We've known a few who have swallowed socks and even dish

towels. Such dogs could easily eat strands of tinsel from a tree or chocolate kisses from a stocking.

We all know about holiday poinsettia plants, long described as lethal for pets. Except they aren't! The Poison Center says at most, the milky sap may cause a little vomiting and diarrhea.

But ibuprofen, naproxen, acetaminophen and, yes, aspirin can cause life-threatening problems.

Prevention is the key to keeping your pets out of the emergency room. Look at your home from the eyes AND nose of a dog and do your best to make it safe.

Be prepared. Keep the phone number of your emergency vet right up there with those of the police and fire department.

And if you think your dog has ingested a poison, the number for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is 1-888-426-4435.

Happy holidays, and stay safe!



hankies out of a clown pocket, she told us. She pulled and pulled and the obstruction just kept coming.

"Afterward, she said that the knot at the end of the rope was the only thing that kept it from becoming a bowel obstruction, which would have been far, far worse." Even so, "if we had ignored Diego's symptoms, he would have died."

The toy didn't belong to them or to his SWCR rescuer, Shellie said, "so Diego must have horked it down at his original owner's. Which means it was in his tummy for two months." Yikes!



Here's Diego after his surgery. He's fine now, thanks to his alert family in Tucson.