

Wagging Tales

The unofficial newsletter for the small dogs and their people of Barkland Dog Park

Volume 2, Issue 5, December 2015



How to Reduce Doggy Stress During the Holidays



Finn McKool and I want to wish you all safe and happy holidays. There's so much to do to get ready — shopping, cooking, traveling, visiting family and friends — that it can be a really stressful time.

Our dogs can sense that something different is going on, and they can get just as stressed out. They may show it with behavioral problems, like chewing a shoe (or ornaments) or peeing on the rug. Here are some ways you can help them survive the season without the stress:

- **Maintain business as usual.** Stick to your routine as much as possible. Keep his walk and feeding schedule the same.
- **Exercise.** It's good for both of you, but it really reduces anxiety in your pup. If it's a nice day, try to make it to the dog park — if even for a short time.
- **Make a game of it.** Give your dog part of his food in a puzzle, such as a Kong treat holder. This is a good brain stimulant, as well as a distraction. You could also hide little treats around the house or go with Finn's favorite: the [Interactive IQ Treat Ball](#).
- **Give him Mom or Dad time.** When you're so busy, your dog can feel left out. Just make a little extra time for cuddling or much-needed attention.
- **Day care does wonders.** Treat your dog to a day of day care! It's extra playtime for him and a free day for you. [North Shore Dog](#) and [PetSmart](#) both offer the service.

Dear Santa Paws



It's not too late to find the perfect gift for your little barker and make her the envy of Barkland. Take the [smiling ball](#), for example. You can hide treats in it for her and get lots of photo laughs for you! How about ordering a [Himalayan YakyTop](#) savory "pupsicle" with a yak cheese chewy top and bully stick handle? The [MixMax Puzzle](#) is an interactive toy that you can play with your dog. It comes in three levels (easy, intermediate and advanced) so your pup's confidence is left in tact. The best gift of all, though, is time with you.

Play Dates: Dog-gone Fun for All



**North Shore Dog
Sunday Play Dates
January 10, 24; February 7, 21
11am to 1pm, \$5 per dog**

Shake off the winter chill at our [North Shore Dog](#) play dates in Danvers. Just remember to bring proof of rabies vaccination and \$5 per dog.



Keep Your Dog Safe This Winter

We're lucky the cold hasn't hit us yet, but when you're in the Northeast you know it's just a matter of time. Get out the doggy sweaters and boots — good luck with that — and get ready for the cold with these stay-safe suggestions.

Limit exposure to the cold. If your dog spends a good amount of time in your fenced-in yard, try to put up some kind of sheltered area (preferably heated) with dry bedding.

Check your thermostat. Dogs get cold, too. If your pup's bed is near a drafty window, move it to a warmer spot. You might consider doggy pajamas — especially if your dog is very small or has a thin coat (of fur, that is).

Anti-freeze is a no-no. It is for your dog, at least. It's extremely toxic (are you listening, Magnet?) and should be kept well out of their reach. Make sure to wipe up any spills or leaks immediately.

May I see your ID? Hopefully, your dog will never manage to escape from your yard or pull out of its leash. Take precautions by making sure his ID tag is updated and he is microchipped.

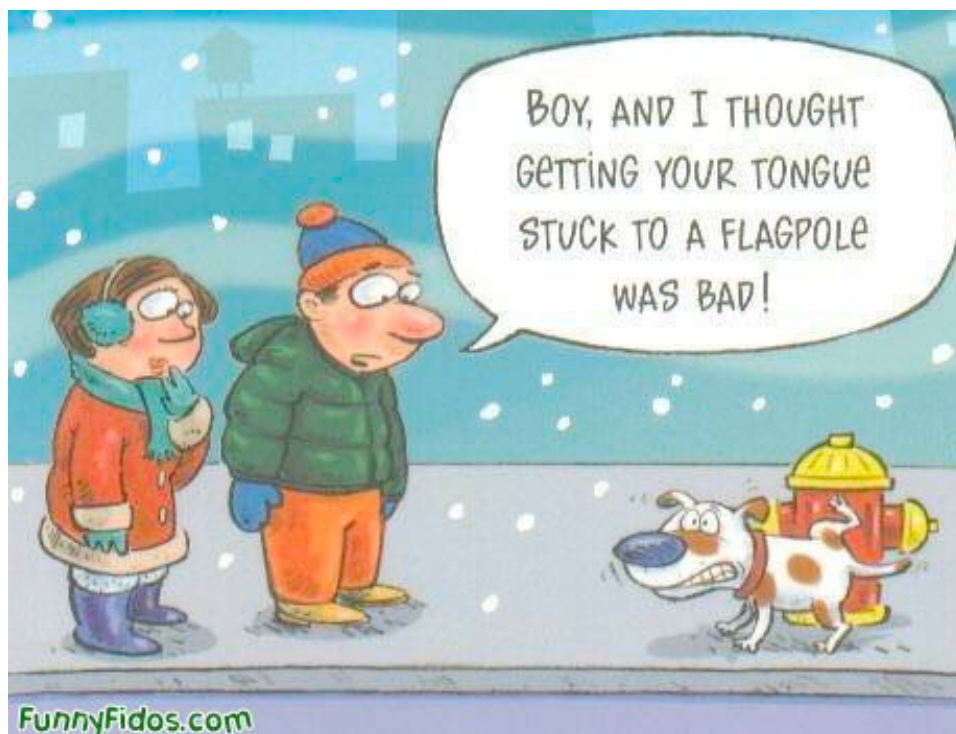
Scour your yard. Survey your yard for any potentially dangerous objects that could be hiding under piles of leaves or lurking. Look for broken glass, excessive pine needles, sharp sticks, chicken bones or food scraps.

Happy Birthday!

Big birthday wishes go out to our only December birthday dog:

Dec. 11: Sasha Starkenberg

If you haven't submitted your dog's birthday yet, please do so that he or she can be included on the list.



Canine Couture à la Mlle Chanel



Little Mademoiselle Chanel Brinkley is very cute —and she knows it. She also has a wardrobe worthy of her *haute-couture* name. So ... there's no one better to show the best of the best in canine fashion than

Chanel. To get the "Chanel look" for your pup, check out these high-fashion web sites: [Baxter Boo](#), [Doggie Couture Shop](#), [Posh Pet](#), [Urban Pup](#) and [Talia Dog Boutique](#).

Coming Soon ...

Here's what you can expect in coming issues of *Wagging Tales*:
 Battle of the Brands: Which Food is Best?
 New Year's Resolutions for Your Dog
 To Insure or Not to Insure
 Dog-friendly New England Hikes
 Pupcorn Flicks: Watch Together

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