

CLANCY'S CLICHES

Mare Egrets Moose!

(That's Merry Christmas in animal language – just say it real fast and you'll see!)

Now, you may think it's easy being a dog, but the holidays are extremely ruff for us.

We must keep our snouts to the dogbone and observe the revered Dog's Rules for Christmas - some of these may also be good advice for humans, too:



A DOG'S RULES FOR CHRISTMAS

- † Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.
- † They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
- † Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
- † They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know:
 - a. Don't drink water in the container that holds the tree b. Mind your tail when you are near the tree (or for you humans, a purse or large arm movements)
 - c. Don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree (or trip over it, no names mentioned)
 - d. Also, remember the tree is inside and outside habits won't be appreciated!
- † Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part:
 - a. Not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans
 - b. Don't eat off the buffet table (the 5-second rule applies to dogs and humans, though)
 - c. Beg for goodies subtly (be a good moochie poochie)
 - d. Be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa e. Don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach
- † Likewise, humans may take their dog visiting. Here, manners will also be important:
 - a. Observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses. (4a is particularly important)
 - b. Respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house
 - c. Tolerate children
 - d. Turn on your charm big time
 - e. If you run into an angel, don't forget to say "Halo, there!"

† Gift-giving: leave not material gifts but rather, be there for everyone and give them licks and leans, doggie smiles - anda wagging tail, of course!

† Like the animals and humans at the stable, it's important to make time just to "snuggle" up with Jesus and let his love fill your heart.

This time of year, the art of conversation and jovial snippets are especially important so here are a few start-art-arters:

- What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with a detective? Santa Clues.
- What do the reindeer sing to Father Christmas on his birthday? Freeze a jolly good fellow.
- If a reindeer lost his tail, where would it go for a new one? A retail shop.
- Why does Santa have 3 gardens? So he can ho-ho-ho.
- Knock Knock - Who's there? Wayne - Wayne who? Wayne in a manger.
- Why did Fr. Jim throw his vegetables on the ground? He wanted to see Peas on Earth.

Blessings and Peace
this Holy Season of our Christ's Birth!