

Safe Thanksgiving for Pets



As we change our focus toward family and cooking, cleaning and give thanks in the coming days, it's easy to indulge—both people and pets. It's also a good reminder of the foods that we people love that could land your pet in the emergency clinic in no time.

Did you know that bones that have been cooked are especially dangerous? Your pup may beg for them, but the cooking process causes them to become brittle, and once ingested, the sharp edges can easily puncture internal organs. Common cooking ingredients like onion, garlic and chocolate are toxic to pets. And, let's face it—the holidays are a time that we tend to indulge with rich foods. Rich foods that will at the very least cause gastrointestinal problems for pets.

Over the holidays, households tend to be not quite the norm, so take a moment to keep an eye out for any dangers that your pet may encounter---a new floral arrangement, unattended alcohol containers, food preparations, a garbage full of good stinky smells that may be too much to resist. If you can keep an eye out for how your house looks through your pet's eyes, you could save yourself veterinary bills, or a messy clean up later! If you suspect that your pet has ingested something that it should not have, be familiar with common signs of distress, such as: sudden changes in behavior, depression, lethargy, vomiting, pain, or diarrhea. If you suspect your pet is suffering from accidental ingestion of something potentially toxic, do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian.

If family is coming to your home for the holidays, consider crating your dog, or giving your dog or cat their own designated space, such as a bedroom or laundry room. Shy pets and excitable pets will feel more comfortable in their own quiet area. You could help to keep them relaxed from the increased activity in their home, and safe from being let outdoors or from curious visiting children or from food being given to them by well-meaning guests. You can also protect your guests by segregating your pets---you never know if your niece's new boyfriend is allergic to pet dander!

If you are traveling with your pet this holiday, make sure that they are welcome at the location you are traveling to before you leave home! It can be difficult on both your pet as well as family relations. Be sure to pack for your pet as well as yourself on your travels—food and water bowls, food, and medications, bedding. If you are traveling and leaving your pet safely at home, consider getting a pet sitter or boarding your pet if you are gone for an extended period of time.

Give thanks for your four legged friends and keep them safe this holiday season!