

HOLIDAYS: KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE ON THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to share with friends and family; but the food and festivities can be dangerous for your dogs and cats. However, your pet CAN have a safe holiday if you follow these simple tips.

Keep an Eye on Your Pets

Keep dogs and cats away from your Thanksgiving feast. Pets that like to investigate kitchen counters and coffee tables should be crated or kept in a safe room while you are setting up, entertaining guests and sitting down for dinner.

- Allow your dog to greet the guests and then put him in his crate or room with a favorite toy.
- Do not assume that your dog will be okay with children if he has little or no experience with them. Be sure to set ground rules with the children and their parents BEFORE introducing them to your dog.

A Word About Cats

- Keep your cats in a room so they cannot get in your way, on counters or escape when guests are going in and out of the front door.
- Cats may experience anxiety when guests come over. Confine your cat to her room and give her plenty of safe, interactive toys to keep her busy.
- If your cat hides, let her. Do not drag her out to meet guests. She could interpret this as a threat and scratch or bite her way out of the situation.

Leftovers

Turkey with all the trimmings may taste delicious to your dog or cat, but animals cannot process these high-fat foods. It can be extremely harmful to your pet's digestive system, causing diarrhea, stomach upset and even pancreatitis (swelling of the pancreas).

- **Do not pour turkey fat or grease over your dog's or cat's food.** Even a small amount is too high in fat for your pet's digestive system.
- **Do not give your pet turkey bones.** The bones are very sharp and brittle and can become lodged in your pet's throat.
- **Be careful of the trussing cord.** The cord can tangle or bind in your pet's intestines and can only be removed through surgery.

Alcohol

Some pets will drink alcohol especially if it is flavored with milk or cream. An animal's metabolism is incapable of processing alcohol; therefore, it can cause permanent and fatal repercussions.

Chocolate and Desserts

Even though your pet may enjoy sweets, they are extremely dangerous and can be fatal!

- Do not feed your pet chocolate. There are chemicals in chocolate that can severely affect your dog's neurological and cardiac systems. Just one ounce of chocolate can be fatal to a ten-pound dog. Keep all fudge, bakers' chocolate and candy out of paws reach.



Garbage

You must take precautions to ensure that your pet cannot get into the garbage. Be sure to tie garbage bags securely and make sure that the garbage can lid is closed tightly.

Walking Your Dog After the Big Meal

This is the perfect time to reward your dog for his good behavior by taking him on a long, leisurely stroll.

- Make sure that his collar and leash fit properly.
- Do not exceed your dog's exercise ability, even though YOU need to walk off the day's meal. If your pet has never climbed a mountain, today is NOT the day to try.
- If your dog has had a lot of extra food or treats, make sure that he doesn't over-exert himself.

For more information, please visit azhumane.org.

