



## Thanksgiving Safety for Pets



**Food Safety** - It can be tempting to share your holiday feast with your four-legged companion, but there are many potential hazards in Thanksgiving Day foods.

**Turkey** - A small amount of unseasoned, thoroughly cooked, white meat is okay; gravy, seasoned meat, dark meat, and turkey skin should be avoided. Gravy, dark meat and turkey skin are especially fatty and can cause pancreatitis, which is a serious condition that requires immediate veterinary treatment.

**Seasonings** - Garlic, onion, leeks, and chives are very common in many Thanksgiving dishes, but they are toxic to dogs and cats. These ingredients cause destruction of red blood cells in dogs and cats.

**Raw Yeast Dough** - Ingesting raw yeast dough can cause a blockage, as the dough will rise and expand. The dough also can ferment in the stomach, releasing ethanol and carbon dioxide - causing severe bloating and alcohol poisoning.

**Desserts** - Chocolate is toxic to both dogs and cats, as well as xylitol - a popular sugar alternative found in many sugar-free baked goods.

**Secure the trash** - Make sure all trash bags are tied tight when full and put outside in a bin with a lid, or in a room that your pet has no access to. Thanksgiving food trash is especially tempting to pets, but it harbors hazards such as harmful food scraps, poultry bones, food packaging, and strings from tying the turkey.

*\*If you believe your pet has eaten something they shouldn't have, immediately call your veterinarian or local veterinary emergency clinic. You also can call the ASPCA Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) or the Pet Poison Helpline (855-764-7661); note that a fee may apply. Signs that something might be wrong with your pet include sudden behavior changes, depression, discomfort or pain, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet shows any of these signs.*

**Guest Safety** - hosting for Thanksgiving can be stressful for not only you, but also your pet.

**A quiet escape for your pet** - Most pets are used to a routine and many guests in your home can disrupt this routine and cause some anxiety. If your pet is not a social butterfly, make sure they have a safe, quiet place to escape the party guests.

**Secure the exits to prevent a door dasher** - with guests coming in and out, it can be easy for your cat or dog to make a run for it. Gates can be set up to keep pets away from doors, or keep pets in a separate room while guests arrive and there is more traffic through doors.

**Keep noses out of guests' bags** - Handbags, backpacks, and suitcases can contain a variety of potentially hazardous things such as medications, feminine products, candy bars, and sugar-free gum (containing xylitol).

**Traveling Safety** - your furry companion may be accompanying you if you are traveling for the holiday, and keeping them safe in transit is essential.

**Health certificates** - If you are flying with your pet, many airlines require health certificates that can be obtained through a visit with your veterinarian. Required vaccines can be boosted at this time. *\*Do your research beforehand to figure out what your airline specifically requires.\**

**Secure pets in vehicles** - Keeping cats in secure carriers and using harnesses/seatbelts for dogs provides the most safety for your pet in the event of an accident

**Medications for traveling** - Traveling can be stressful to your pet, especially if they are not used to venturing very far from their home. Talk to your veterinarian about medications that can be given to ease anxiety in your pet for the ride to and from their destination. Some pets also get nauseous or sick in the car - talk to your veterinarian about pet-safe motion sickness medications.

