

Welcome

The holiday season is just around the corner! This month our topic will be "Thanksgiving Pet Safety". If you have any questions or have a topic you would like to hear about please contact our staff at 630-365-9599 or you can contact us via email at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net

Thanksgiving is a holiday that brings family and friends together, but it can also present some hazards for your pets. Holiday food needs to be kept away from pets, and pet owners who travel need to either transport their pets safely or find accommodations at home. Following are some tips to keep your pes safe during the holiday season.



Poison Risks

Overindulging in the family feast can be unhealthy for humans, but even worse for pets. Fatty foods are hard for animals to digest. **Poultry bones can damage your pet's digestive track.** Holiday sweets can contain ingredients that are poisonous to pets. *Keep the feast on the table, not under it! Eating turkey fat or turkey skin can cause a life threatening condition in pets know as pancreatitis. Fatty foods are hard for animals to digest, and many foods that are healthy for

people are poisonous to pets - including onions, raisins, grapes and macadamia nuts. If you want your pet to have a special treat for Thanksgiving, make or buy a treat that is made especially for them.

*No pie or other desserts for your pet.

Chocolate can be toxic to pets. Many sugar free baked goods and gums, also some candies, contain an artificial sweetener called xylitol, which can also be deadly if consumed by your pet. Xylitol can now be found in some peanut butters, make sure and check the ingredients label.

*Yeast dough (raw) can cause a problem for pets, including painful gas and potentially dangerous bloating.

*Always put the trash away where your pet can't find it. A turkey carcass sitting on a table, or left in a trash container could also be deadly to your pet. Dispose of turkey carcasses and bones, and anything used to wrap or tie the meat, in a covered and tightly secured trash bag placed in a closed trash container outdoors or someplace where they cannot access it.

*Be careful with decorative plants. Some flowers and plants can be toxic to pets. These include amaryllis, Baby's Breath, Sweet William, some ferns, hydrangeas and more.

Keep your pets away from all plants and table decorations.

If you believe your pet has been poisoned or has eaten something they shouldn't have, call your veterinarian or local emergency clinic immediately.

You may also want to call the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline: 888-426-4435. (Some costs may apply) Signs of pet distress can include; sudden change in behavior, depression, pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and excessive drooling.



Precautions for Parties

If you're hosting a party or overnight guests, plan ahead to keep your pets safe and make the experience less stressful for everyone.

*Visitors can upset your pets. Some pets are shy or excitable around new people or in crowds. If you know your dog or cat is nervous when people came to visit your home, put him/her away in a room or a crate with a favorite toy. This will help to reduce the emotional stress on your pet and protect your guests from possible injury.

**If any of your guests have compromised immune systems, make sure they're aware of the pets (especially exotic pets) in your home so they can take extra precautions to protect themselves.

**If you have exotic pets, remember that some people are uncomfortable around

them and that these pets may be more easily stressed by festivities. Keep exotic pets safely away from the hubbub of the holiday.

*Watch the exits. Even if your pets are comfortable around guests, make sure to watch them closely, especially when people are entering and leaving your home.

*Identification tags and microchips reunite families. Make sure your pet has proper identification with your current contact information - particularly a microchip with up to date registered information. If you move, change phone numbers, email addresses, etc. make sure to update your information with the company your pets microchip in registered through. It's very sad and disappointing to find a chipped pet whose owner information is not up to date! If they do sneak out, they are more likely to be returned to you. If your pet isn't already microchipped, talk to your veterinarian about the benefits of this simple procedure.

*Watch your pets around festive decorations. Special holiday displays or candles are attractive to pets as well as people. Never leave a pet alone in an area with a lit candle, as it could result in a fire. And pine cones, needles and other decorations that can cause an intestinal blockage or perforate your pets intestine.

Travel with your pet

Whether you take your pets with you or leave them behind, take these precautions to safeguard them when traveling over the holidays.

*Your pet needs a health certificate from your vet if you're traveling across state lines or international borders, whether by car or air. Check for the requirements for

any state you pass through, and schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to get the needed health certificate within the time frame required by those states.

*Never leave pets alone in vehicles, even for a short time, regardless of weather.

*Pets should always be safely restrained in vehicles. This means using a secure harness or a carrier, placed in a location clear of airbags. This helps protect your pet if you brake or swerve suddenly, or get into an accident; it keeps them away from potentially poisonous food or other items you are transporting, prevents them from causing distractions for the driver, and can prevent small animals from getting trapped in small spaces. Never transport your pet in the bed of a truck.

*Talk with your vet if you're traveling by air and considering bringing your pet with you. Air travel can put pets at risk, especially short nosed dogs.

*Pack for your pet well if you are traveling. In addition to your pet's food and medications, make sure to bring your pet's medical records, information to help identify your pet if it becomes lost, first aid supplies, and other items. A current picture is helpful if they are lost for a short time.

*Are you considering boarding your dog while you travel?

Talk with your vet to find out how best to protect your pet from canine flu and other contagious diseases, and make sure your pet is up to date on all the vaccines your kennel requires.

Food Safety

Don't forget to protect your family and loved ones from foodborne illnesses while cooking your Thanksgiving feast! Hand washing, and safe food handling and preparation, are important to make sure

you make your holiday a happy one.



We will be closed Thanksgiving Day, but will reopen on Friday at 8 a.m...
Have a blessed and safe Holiday!

If you have any questions or comments, please email us at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net or call 630-365-9599! If you have a subject you would like covered in our newsletter please let us know!

