



Talking Turkey

Thanksgiving Safety for Your Pet

A Moment in Furrstory

Did you know that domestic dogs and cats were part of the first Thanksgiving feast? They came over on the Mayflower. Two English Spaniels and a cat named Felix. Felix worked on his passage over catching mice. The dogs were brought to protect the colonists from wolves.

Now their descendants are begging to take part in your Thanksgiving bounty. But be aware that many of the delicacies you are making can be harmful to them. Here is a list of tradition foods to watch out for:

Turkey Time

If you decide to feed your pet a little nibble of turkey, make sure it's boneless and well-cooked. Don't offer her raw or undercooked turkey, which may contain salmonella bacteria

Wrappings

Dispose of aluminum foil, plastic wrap and wax paper. While licking up food left on these wrappings pets can ingest some of the wrapper, leading to intestinal obstructions. Also, look out for tooth picks, skewers and used silverware.

Hot food

When carrying hot food from the stove or to the table, be sure little Fluffy isn't taking that moment to weave through your legs.

Centerpieces and Decorations

As always, be careful with the items you have on your table or around your house. Many common plants like Baby's Breath and Chrysanthemums are toxic to your pet.

Sage Advice

Sage can make your Thanksgiving stuffing taste delish, but it and many other herbs contain essential oils and resins that can cause gastrointestinal upset and central nervous system depression to pets if eaten in large quantities. Cats are especially sensitive to the effects of certain essential oils.

No Bread Dough

Don't spoil your pet's holiday by giving him raw bread dough. According to ASPCA experts, when raw bread dough is ingested, an animal's body heat causes the dough to rise in his stomach. As it expands, the pet may experience vomiting, severe abdominal pain and bloating, which could become a life-threatening emergency, requiring surgery.

Don't Let Them Eat Cake

If you're baking up Thanksgiving cakes, be sure your pets keep their noses out of the batter, especially if it includes raw eggs—they could contain salmonella bacteria that may lead to food poisoning.

Too Much of a Good Thing

A few small boneless pieces of cooked turkey, a taste of mashed potato or even a lick of pumpkin pie shouldn't pose a problem. However, don't allow your pets to overindulge, as they could wind up with a case of stomach upset, diarrhea or even worse—an inflammatory condition of the pancreas known as pancreatitis. In fact, it's best keep pets on their regular diets during the holidays.