

Pawsitive Press

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Holiday Hazards

Wade Matthews, D.V.M.

Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and New Years are four great holidays crammed into 6 weeks. We go for months with a normal work week and then it all hits. It seems that you do not have time to enjoy one without focusing on the next one. I see Christmas decorations up in stores and its early October, way too early for me to be focusing on that, giving in to the rush of presents and preparations. There are things that are important around the holidays. The people who give and receive the most joy are the ones who can distinguish between the two. Our pets are not immune from the holiday rush and sometimes are even traumatized by it.



Sometimes, we might think, "If I have a great meal on these days isn't it only right to share it with my pets?" The answer is NO. I'm not saying that a small bite of turkey is extremely deleterious to a pet's health, however, I have had to remove pieces of that



beautiful turkey leg bone from a few stomachs, because mom or dad felt they just couldn't say no to those irresistible, puppy-eyes. Dogs and cats do not deal well with drastic change in diet, it can cause major problems. A good idea for leftover bones is to put the bones in a bag and freeze them. When the leftovers are gone, and you have a craving for turkey in two months, take them out of the freezer; add chicken stock and vegetables, then, simmer in the crock pot for 8 hours on low. Voila! You now have a really good tasting and healthy soup. We don't usually eat the fat that is removed from the derriere of the turkey, so that can go in the trash. Guess who not only has a great nose and can smell anything from the next block, but who will not ask permission to eat it? Pancreatitis is caused by ingestion of a fatty meal and is a very debilitating disease for pets. It is treatable, but your pet will be uncomfortable and you would rather not spend any more money during the holidays. In addition to this, some of our tasty side dishes are actually toxic. Dogs and onions do not do well

together and grapes will give a pet's kidneys fits. Everyone loves to bake but chocolate in larger doses can cause neurologic and heart problem. Let your pet enjoy the holidays without any gastrointestinal upset.

Sometimes, you may think. "I enjoy my tree it is so beautiful, why shouldn't my cat enjoy it too?" Out of all the "Holiday Diseases" I have treated, none is more common or more deadly than linear foreign bodies in cats (which is a fancy way to describe a cat that swallowed something long and skinny).



We have these lying around all the time during this time of year. Tinsel looks beautiful on trees but can fall to the ground at any time. Packages need to be wrapped, and the special ones get the nice decorative ribbon. Then the phone rings, we get interrupted and distracted and our cat starts to play with the twelve-inch piece of either decoration that is on the floor. At first, he is intrigued by just slapping it with his paws. Then, he takes it in his mouth and tosses it from side to side, but some of it sticks to his tongue and he doesn't know what to do but swallow. He has no fingers to pull it out. So the whole

Hazards Continued

length goes down into his digestive tract. If you are very lucky, he will vomit it back up and be fine. Usually, the stomach tries to digest it for a while, and then tries to pass it downstream to the bowel. The problem with that is that the bowel is not a straight line. It goes around in a circle and when you straighten out a piece of string it goes to a straight line. This actually works like a saw, and it cuts the bowel which is painful and life threatening without surgery. The first thing I ask during the holidays when a client brings in a vomiting cat is “Were you wrapping presents recently or do you have tinsel on your tree”. I cringe when the answer is “yes”, because I know the dangers around the holidays of what can happen. Most people take excellent care of their pets and are just not aware of these dangers.



Focus on the important things this holiday season, not the urgent ones. The one who gives the most love, WINS! Have a Great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year. Please drop by and say “hello” to us anytime.



Top Holiday Plants

That May be Pose a Danger to Household Pets



Toxicity Level
Mistletoe



Toxicity Level
Holly



Toxicity Level
Poinsettia



Toxicity Level
Pine Needles



Toxicity Level
Amaryllis



If your pets have ingested any plant that may be poisonous, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 (a fee may apply) immediately.

Have a safe holiday season!

Source information from ASPCA
<http://www.aspcsa.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

thatpetplace.com

HOW TO HAVE A PET-SAFE THANKSGIVING

FOOD SAFETY

Thanksgiving food rocks, but it's not always great for pets. These are some foods that make dangerous treats.

-  **TURKEY BONES**
-  **CHOCOLATE**
-  **ONIONS & GARLIC**
-  **ALCOHOL**

GUARD THE TRASH

 The trash smells tasty when it's full of turkey gristle, but make sure they don't sample!

GIVE 'EM A GETAWAY

 A full house might stress your pets out, so set a room aside for them to be alone.

CHECK I.D.

 Holiday stress can make pets run away. Be safe and make sure they are tagged.

GOT TOYS?

 Take their mind off the bird with a chew toy or some catnip.



Sweet Potato And Apple Treats

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup cooked plain mashed sweet potatoes
- 3 tablespoons chicken or beef broth (or water)
- 2 cups whole wheat pastry flour, plus more for dusting
- 1/2 cup fine yellow cornmeal
- 1/4 cup finely chopped mint
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and grated



Method:

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together sweet potatoes and broth. Add flour, cornmeal, mint and apples and stir until combined. Knead the dough a few times until it holds together. Roll out half of the dough on a generously floured surface until about 1/4-inch thick. Use (2- to 4-inch) cookie cutters to cut out treats. Transfer to baking sheets; reroll and cut the remaining dough.

Bake until dried and just slightly golden on the bottoms, 35 to 40 minutes. Turn off the oven, leave oven door ajar and let the treats cool and dry out in the oven for 1 to 2 hours. Store in an airtight container up to 1 week.

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Expires: 11/30/14
NL



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Expires 11/30/14 NL



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- *Food
- *Heartworm Prevention
- *Dietary Supplements
- *Flea and Tick Control

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. May not be combined with any other offer.

This coupon can not be applied to prescription medications other than heartworm/flea control Epiration 11/30/14 NL