

Thanksgiving With Your Dog



Thanksgiving Day is one of the treasured holidays in which we gather with our families to celebrate, eat and enjoy each other's company. Most dog owners include their furry family members in the celebrations, whether their dog is laying in front of a warm fire in the family room or enjoying some snacks off their plate from underneath the table. Everyone has their own way of celebrating the holidays, and there is no reason why it cannot be an enjoyable occasion for your dog as well!

Many dog owners want to share their home cooked food with their pets, which is why it is very important to know your dog and to know what foods are considered toxic to pets.

If your dog is enjoying the benefits of a homemade dog food diet, then a little bit of your home cooked food will be fine to share. If your dog is fed a commercial kibble diet, you need to know their level of tolerance and stomach sensitivity prior to feeding home cooked food to avoid giving your dog an upset stomach.



It is extremely important to be aware of the food that is considered unsafe and even toxic for pets to consume.

Do not feed anything containing onion, garlic, grapes, raisins, xylitol, artificial sweeteners, raw yeast or bread dough, macadamia nuts, alcohol or avocado. Those ingredients have been deemed toxic and can harm your pet.

Depending on how big your family is and how loud these events can be, it is important to provide a safe and quiet place for your dog to rest if they require it. Holidays can be hectic and busy for many people, and some dogs do not tolerate loud noise and large crowds very well, so be aware of your dog during these special gatherings.

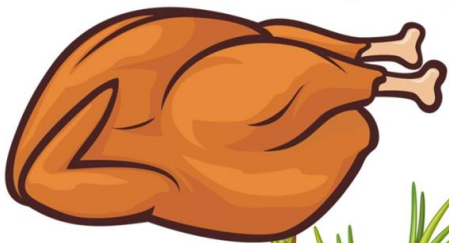


For dogs that must stay home during the holidays, consider bringing them a special treat or snack to make it special for them as well! You can even make a special homemade meal that night for your canine companion using dog friendly ingredients!

8 Somewhat Surprising! THANKSGIVING DAY FOODS that can kill your dog.



1 Turkey Skin
High fat foods, like that delicious turkey skin, can be extremely hazardous to your dog's health. The skin holds any marinade, spices, butter and oils and is difficult to digest. High fat foods can lead to pancreatitis. Symptoms include vomiting, abdominal pain and lethargy.



2 Cooked Bones
Cooked turkey and ham bones are NOT safe for dogs. They can splinter in the dog's digestive tract and your holiday may include a pricey trip to the emergency room and worse. Dispose of bones carefully so that your pup isn't tempted to eat them.

3 Onions & Garlic
Onions and garlic contain sulfides, which are toxic to dogs, and can lead to anemia. Onions are more toxic than garlic and cooking them does not reduce their toxicity.



4 Alcohol
Many dogs love the taste of beer, but this does not mean you should share your frosty brew with your best friend. Any alcohol, and particularly the hops in beer, is toxic and in some cases can cause death in dogs.



5 Nuts
Specifically walnuts and macadamia nuts and very dangerous for your dog. They could cause a toxic reaction called, "macadamia nut toxicosis." Within 12 hours of eating them, dogs are unable to stand, vomiting, having tremors, fever, weakness and elevated heart rate. Usually symptoms go away but this can lead to deadly shock.



6 Nutmeg
Used to spice sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie, nutmeg can cause seizures and central nervous system problems if your dog ingests it. In extreme cases, it can even cause death. Both sweet potatoes and pumpkin, in moderation, are good for your dog - just make sure they don't have any nutmeg on them before you feed him any!



7 Sage
Sage contains essential oils that can cause stomach upset. Best to keep this herb out of reach from your pup's paws!



8 Chocolate, Dough, & Batter
We all know chocolate is a no-no, but did you know that dough can actually rise inside your dog's stomach, causing bloating and severe pain? Additionally, dough and batter contain raw eggs, which may contain Salmonella. Keep your furkid out of the kitchen while you bake and clean up any spills right away.



If you think that your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, call the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435**