



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 8, ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

KEEPING THANKSGIVING SAFE FOR YOUR PETS

It's hard to believe, but the holiday season is almost here once again. Though Thanksgiving can be a special time of year for friends, family, and feasting, it poses some special concerns for your pets.

Many traditional Thanksgiving foods contain large amounts of sodium, sugar, and fats, all of which can lead to health problems for your pet. This can include an stomach upset, diarrhea, or even an inflammatory condition of the pancreas known as pancreatitis.

Many typical foods are highly toxic to your pet, including onions, garlic, chocolate, grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts, and the sweetener Xylitol. (For a list of people foods to avoid feeding your pet, visit www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control.) For safety's sake, ensure that all snacks and foods are kept out of reach, and don't feed table scraps to your pet.

Signs of poisoning include drooling or hypersalivating, nausea, inappetance, vomiting, diarrhea, coughing or vomiting of blood, pale gums, weakness or lethargy, or collapse. If you think your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, immediately call us at (916) 488-4161 or contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.

While a small bite of well-cooked turkey typically won't pose a problem, never give turkey bones to your pet. Bird bones are hollow and can splinter into extremely sharp pieces when chewed, which can lead to serious or even life-threatening intestinal injuries.

Your pet may be enticed by all the interesting smells and objects in the trash can.

Pets may also be attracted by aluminum foil, wax paper, and plastic wrap that's been used to cover foods. If ingested, these can cause digestive issues, choking, or even intestinal obstruction. Make sure all garbage is locked up so your pet isn't tempted when you aren't looking.

For your pet's sake, it's best to keep them on their regular diet during the holidays. If you'd like to offer your pet a treat to keep them happily occupied during your family dinner, consider a made-for-pets chew bone or a small amount of their regular kibble inside a food puzzle toy. For kitties with special dietary requirements, the Sacramento Cat Hospital has a variety of prescription treats available; please ask us for more details.

While company is visiting, confining your pet in a closed room or crate can help decrease stress and will keep your pet from dashing out a frequently-opening front door. (And should your pet somehow escape, it's important that they are micro-chipped and also wearing identification tags.) Some cats and dogs just don't do well when there are lots of people in their house. For these pets, there are a number of natural products available to help them feel more relaxed during a busy day. Please ask us for more details.

Increased activity and visitors during the holiday season can upset your pet's regular routine. Try to keep your pet on his or her regular feeding and exercise schedule—and be sure to give your pet plenty of love to ensure that the holidays are enjoyable for everyone.

FELINE BOARDING AT THE SACRAMENTO CAT HOSPITAL

If you'll be traveling during the holidays, we'd like to invite your feline family member to be our guest while you're away. We offer boarding accommodations in a loving feline-only environment. Beds, toys, and fresh litter boxes are provided—along with lots of daily petting and attention from our kitty-loving doctors and team members! All of our feline guests receive daily weight monitoring, monitoring of food and water intake, and twice-daily exercise sessions. We can administer any medication or special foods that your kitty requires.

We can also schedule your kitty's routine or preventive health care needs during their stay. Wellness exams, vaccinations, dental cleanings, and more can be conveniently taken care of while you are away. (When you call to make your boarding reservation, please remember to also schedule any exams or special procedures.)

To stay with us, your kitty must have received a wellness exam with one of our doctors within the past 12 months. (If your kitty is due for a wellness exam, please see our special offer below.) For more information about boarding, or to make your reservation, call us at (916) 488-4161.



NOVEMBER SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

During the month of November, bring your kitty to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a wellness exam and you'll **receive a \$10 discount!**

Please stop by our front desk for more information about boarding or to schedule your appointment.

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.

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