Thanksgiving Safety Tips for Pet Owners

Green Bay – With Thanksgiving right around the corner, the Wisconsin Humane Society Green Bay Campus is offering up some safety tips for pet owners to consider during the holiday.

1. Limit their holiday snacks. Thanksgiving of course means lots of delicious food and leftovers, but a sudden change in diet can cause digestive issues and certain foods can be toxic to animals, so it’s best not to share human food with our pets. But if you can’t resist, make sure to follow these important guidelines:
   a. **Ensure that the turkey treat is boneless and well-cooked.** Don't offer your pup raw or undercooked turkey, which may contain salmonella bacteria.
   b. **Avoid treats with herbs.** 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 damage to pets if eaten in large quantities. Cats are especially sensitive to the effects of certain essential oils.
   c. **Don’t allow access to raw bread dough.** When raw bread dough is ingested, the dough can rise in the stomach, causing bloat, vomiting and severe abdominal pain. This can become a life-threatening emergency, requiring surgery.

2. Stick to safe treats. A few small boneless pieces of cooked turkey, a spoonful of mashed potatoes or even a lick of pumpkin pie shouldn’t pose a problem for most dogs. However, don't allow your pets to overindulge, as they could wind up with a case of stomach upset or something even more serious.

3. **Give your pet a nice quiet place to relax.** For some animals, all the visitors in their home can become overwhelming. Allow Fido a comfortable place away from all the hustle and bustle.

4. **Make sure your pet has a collar with an ID tag,** whether or not they have a microchip. With lots of people coming and going, it’s easier for your dog or cat to get out the door. If this happens, your contact information is then readily available for the finder(s).

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**About the Wisconsin Humane Society**
The Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) is the oldest and largest shelter in Wisconsin. It was founded in 1879 and operates shelters in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Brown and Door Counties, as well as a spay/neuter clinic in West Allis. The organization offers adoption services, educational programming, and veterinary resources for animals from low-income households, retail stores, volunteer programs and dog training classes. The Milwaukee shelter also houses the state’s largest Wildlife Rehabilitation
Center. WHS is an independent nonprofit and receives no general government funding and is not part of any national umbrella group. For more information, please call (414) 264-6257 or visit wihumane.org.