

# Keep your pets safe as you celebrate Thanksgiving!

The San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program offers pet owners the following tips to help keep your pets safe during this special celebration:



- **Ham, Turkey and other holiday foods** -- we recommend vegetarian "turkey" of course! However, if you are serving a turkey with bones, ***NEVER*** give leftovers to your pets, and be especially cautious as bones can easily splinter. Rich, fatty holiday foods like turkey skin, ham, and gravy can lead to stomach upset and other problems in your pet. Onions, grapes, and raisins, should also be avoided. Chocolate, caffeine, and alcohol are all toxic to pets and should not be given to them.
- **Talk to your guests** -- Make sure your guests know not to feed your pets any bones or table scraps. If they want to feed your pet then have them give them one of their normal treats, such as a dog biscuit. Be careful that pets don't get overfed.
- **Routine** -- Pets thrive on routine. It is best to feed your pet their regular meal before the guests arrive. This will help keep them regular and reduce the temptation for begging and stealing.
- **Garbage** - Make sure garbage and leftovers are safely disposed of right away, as even trained pets may be tempted to counter-surf or raid the garbage or outside trash. Put a heavy item on all outside trash lids so that stray/wild animals cannot get into the trash as well.
- **Candles** -- make sure candles are kept out of reach of curious pets that may accidentally knock them over and start a fire.
- **Plants** -- Poinsettias, ivy, lilies, mistletoe and holly berries may add beauty to your home, but they are very poisonous to your pets. Keep them out of your pet's reach.
- **A safe place** -- If you are having several guests over, put your pets in a separate room with some toys and a bed. Soft music playing also helps them to relax. Pets that have their own room will feel safer, less stressed, and won't be able to accidentally escape out the front door. Another option is to use a pet gate or play pen to house your pet nearby the festivities so they can still see what is going on, but be kept safely indoors.
- **ID** -- Keep current identification on your pet at all times. In the event that your pet does get loose you will have a better chance of having them returned if they have proper identification.
- **Just in case** ... Keep your veterinarian's phone number nearby just in case of an emergency.

Thank you for caring about the safety of your pet! Enjoy a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

San Bernardino County  
Animal Care & Control Program  
**(800) 472-5609**  
[www.sbcounty.gov/acc](http://www.sbcounty.gov/acc)

