



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

Pancreatitis: The Dangers of Thanksgiving foods



Thanksgiving is a time of family, festivities and food, but beware, there is a potential danger lurking in sharing that food with your pet – Pancreatitis! Pancreatitis can have very serious, potentially deadly, consequences for your

pet!

Pancreatitis is the inflammation of the pancreas caused by digestive enzymes becoming active while still in the pancreas instead of the small intestine. These digestive enzymes actually start to digest the pancreas itself, causing inflammation, tissue damage, swelling and severe pain!

One of the leading causes of acute pancreatitis is large amounts of fatty foods such as

- ham
- bacon
- gravy
- buttered mashed potatoes
- fatty trimmings
- turkey skin
- pastries, cakes and cookies

The most common symptoms of acute pancreatitis in pets is loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, swollen abdomen, hunching over, lethargy, restlessness and persistent gagging.

If you suspect your pet has pancreatitis, they need to be seen by a veterinarian immediately. If caught early, acute pancreatitis can be treated successfully with antibiotics, anti-nausea medications and small portions of bland food to allow the pancreas to rest and heal. However, if pancreatitis isn't treated, it could lead to internal bleeding and organ failure.

Our faithful friends have a way with those cute, soulful eyes, but don't give in! Our pet's digestive tracts are simply too sensitive to sudden diet changes to risk including them in the holiday meal.

Health Tip for the Season

Fall is the time for Fungi! Wild mushrooms grow plentiful in the Autumn months and can be extremely toxic to your pets if ingested. Keep a close eye on your pets during walks and while out for some crisp air play time.

Training Tip for the Season

We all want to include our furry family members in the holiday festivities, but the dining room table shouldn't be that time. In addition to the possible health concerns mentioned in the main article, begging from the table is the most common complaint of pet parents. Work with your pet now, before the holidays, so they know what is expected of them during holiday meals.

Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

Communication is key! For the health and safety of your pets, your pet sitter needs to stay aware of any changes with your pet so they can provide the best care possible. This is especially important if they notice something or have an emergency. They

Also, this is a good time to remind pet parents to secure all leftovers, and make sure your trash can has a lid or is in a secure area. Those yummy smells don't go away just because they make it to the trash can.

need to be aware of what's going on with your pet.

Featured Pet of the Month



Sawyer James LaFleur - named after all of Josh Holloway's characters on Lost - is a 9 and a half year old American Labrador Retriever. Sawyer loves camping, nature hikes and water. His favorite place is Ohiopyle. Sawyer is loved by Melissa Waldron and can be seen here enjoying some Autumn fun!

Thank you Sawyer and Melissa for this wonderful Autumn themed picture!

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