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Enjoy a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving While Keeping Pets' Safety in Mind *CVMA reminds pet owners to consider pets' safety during holiday celebrations*

Holidays include many fun and meaningful traditions shared with family and friends. However, some of those traditions – particularly those that relate to food – can be hazardous to pets. The Chicago Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) encourages families to plan ahead for holiday celebrations and be mindful of ways that beloved pets can safely be a part of Thanksgiving Day festivities.

Here are some key aspects for pet owners to be aware of when planning for holiday celebrations:

- **Small amounts of boneless turkey are ok.** If you're going to share a bit of Thanksgiving turkey with your pet, make sure it is boneless and fully cooked; undercooked turkey, which invites bacteria and salmonella, could make your pet sick. Also, never give your pet a poultry bone or carcass to chew on as these can cause choking and digestive problems. Best to keep all treats – including turkey – to a minimum as too much can cause upset tummies.
- **Dough is a no-no!** Baked goods are a holiday staple, but it's important to know that yeast dough can make pets very ill. Ingested raw dough expands and ferments and can cause bloated, drunken pets, which quickly can become a medical emergency. Keep the 24-hour ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline (888-426-4435) and your veterinarian's phone number in a prominent place in the event of an emergency.
- **Many other foods and decorations can be dangerous to pets.** Keep these foods and other items far away from pets:
 - Ham, bacon and other sodium-rich meats

- Turkey twine
 - Corn on the cob
 - Garlic and onions
 - Grapes and raisins
 - Chocolate, nuts, and artificial sweeteners (Xylitol) and products containing them
 - Floral centerpieces containing Autumn Crocus, Chrysanthemum, or acorns from oak trees
- **Road-tripping with pets.** While traveling can be fun for humans, it's not as much fun for pets; in fact, new places, routines, and a hectic pace can be stressful for them. Make sure you bring along a favorite toy or blanket to keep them as comfy as possible. If you're traveling by plane, bring a copy of your pet's medical records and be sure their ID tags are secure and visible.

"Pets are important members of our family and naturally we want to include them in our celebrations – but we need to do so with a little extra caution and care." said Dr. Marina Jaworsky, CVMA Board President.

"Thoughtfully planning your holidays before the rush begins will allow you to think through the details and how they will impact your pet – whether you're traveling or staying home. If you have questions about how best to include pets in your celebrations, reach out to your veterinary provider; they are there to assist you."

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About the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association: Chicago Veterinary Medical Association is a professional network with a longstanding tradition that connects more than 1,000 veterinarians with comprehensive resources that support their continued development as champions of animal health while encouraging the fostering of the human-animal bond.

About the Chicago Veterinary Medical Foundation: The CVMF, established in 2009, is a 501^(c)(3) charity that works with Chicagoland veterinarians to provide financial assistance to pet families in need by helping with the costs of their pet's urgent, unexpected medical and surgical bills. The Foundation's work plays a vital role in strengthening the human-animal bond by helping sick and suffering pets get well again.