



NOVEMBER 2024

WHAT CAN FIDO EAT ON THANKSGIVING DAY?

The aromas saturate every corner and crevice of your home. Turkey, green beans, pumpkin pie...the delectable bouquet encircles each of us as we await the savory treats.

Those canine eyes will be upon you as Fido's olfactory system kicks into overdrive. Fully aware of the delicacies on hand, the pooch's frenzy has begun. He, too, wishes to celebrate the 1621 gathering of Pilgrims and Wampanoags in Plymouth.

Fortunately, many of the most common, traditional Thanksgiving dishes are suitable and healthy for your canine.

Turkey contains protein, riboflavin and phosphorous...all of which are beneficial to your dog. So long as there are no bones present, turkey is a healthy option!

Sweet potatoes and pumpkin contain fiber, beta carotene and essential vitamins. Assuming that your dish does not include marshmallows or brown sugar, Fido is good to go. Regular potatoes, however, should be avoided. Some recent research, using foods containing regular potato, raised concerns regarding canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). Raw potatoes contain a toxic substance called Solanine...a glycoalkaloid poison found in the potato (*Solanum tuberosum*), the tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and the eggplant (*Solanum melongena*). While it appears that large amounts would need to be ingested, and that certain forms of cooking may destroy Solanine, you may wish to avoid sharing these foods with your dog.

(Thanksgiving Day...continued)

Additionally, potato skins are high in Oxalates and, while it would require large volumes of potato skins to cause serious damage to your dog's kidneys, we recommend avoiding potato skins.



Green beans are an excellent side-dish to share with your dog. Loaded with vitamins and minerals and fiber...low in calories...green beans are a winner. Ensure that your green beans are free of garlic and/or onions, as both are toxic to canines.

Lastly, cranberries, in small quantities are acceptable. Cranberries contain vitamin C, potassium and fiber. Dogs can safely eat raw, dried or cooked cranberries, however, remember that the dish must not include raisins...which are quite toxic. Cranberry sauce, however, is high in sugar and should be avoided.

Always speak with your veterinarian regarding foods and diets best suited for your particular pet!

SECONDHAND SMOKE AND YOUR PETS

The risks associated with smoking have been well-documented for decades...since the late 1940s, to be exact. A study done by the Surgeon General, in 1956, clearly documented a relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer.

By the mid-1980s, clear and definitive reports were released depicting a linkage between secondhand smoke and the same risk for developing cancer.

While today's smokers understand the risks associated with smoking, as well as the potential risks to those nearby, not many consider the effects of secondhand smoke on their pets.

Secondhand smoke...both the smoke emitted from the lit end of the cigarette, pipe or cigar and the smoke exhaled by the smoker...are consumed by your pets.

Many of those 7,000 chemicals found in cigarettes are toxic and known to cause and/or contribute to cases of cancer. Animals residing inside of a smoker's home...dogs, cats, birds and other animals...are at risk of developing cancer and other serious health issues.

When grooming themselves, animals lick these toxic chemicals off of their fur/hair/feathers.

Many animals develop eye infections, respiratory difficulties, allergies and, of course, cancer from their exposure to secondhand smoke. Additionally, long-snouted dogs, having increased surface area in their nasal cavities, developed nasal cancer. It is believed that the incidence of nasal tumors, in these long-snouted dogs, is 250% higher than that of dogs residing in non-smoking homes.

Short-snouted dogs and brachycephalic dogs, who are less likely to trap these toxins in their nasal cavities, are significantly more likely to develop cancer in their lungs.

Cats are equally at risk.

Felines residing in smoke-filled homes are twice as likely to develop cancer of the lymph nodes...lymphoma...and their



prognosis is usually quite grim.

Additionally, cats commonly develop cancer inside of their mouths from licking the toxic chemicals from their fur.

The toxic chemicals also settle on furniture, rugs and carpet and animals resting on these surfaces are at risk for exposure/absorption.

Should you be in need of assistance to quit smoking, please visit tobaccofreeflorida.com.

SPEAK UP

FOR THE VOICE- LESS



◀ Khaleesi was rescued in Cape Coral after suffering horrific neglect at her former owners hands. She was severely malnourished and couldn't even stand. Today, she is healed and in a loving home. Her former owners were jailed on felony charges. One call made all the difference.

SWFL CRIME STOPPERS



STOP DOG FIGHTING AND ANIMAL CRUELTY NOW!

CALL CRIME STOPPERS AT
1-800-780-TIPS
(8477)

TO PROTECT ANIMALS WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES.

Paid by CSTF

"CHECK THE CHIP" EVENT

All too often, pets manage to crawl beneath a fence or rush through an open door and, sadly, are unable to be reunified with their owner(s).

Microchipping your dog is an important part of responsible pet ownership and assists animal professionals to contact a pet's owner when that animal has been located.



The Lee County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with Lee County Domestic Animal Services, held a "Check the Chip" Dog/Cat

microchipping event at LCSO's Community Outreach Center at Gulf Coast Town Center.

All canines and felines were checked for existing microchips. Those without chips were microchipped at no cost.

MEET "BENJI"

Benji is a big guy...with a big heart! At approximately 98 pounds, he requires a home with some room to run.

This four-year-old is exceptionally playful and affectionate and is deserving of a safe and loving forever home.

If Benji seems like a fit, please stop by the Animal Refuge Center, located at 18011 Old Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers, and say hello!

For additional information, please call 239 -731-3535.



NOVEMBER IS "NATIONAL PET CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

National Pet Cancer Awareness Month is an opportunity to learn the warning signs of pet cancer, understand and locate treatment and to care for pets diagnosed with Cancer.

Lumps, bumps, abnormal odors and discharges, weight loss, appetite changes... just some of the potential warning signs of cancer.

For additional information, the Pet Cancer Foundation is an excellent resource! Visit <https://petcancerfdn.org/>.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

PLEASE "FOLLOW" US ON THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANIMAL CRUELTY FACEBOOK PAGE!

FACEBOOK.COM/LCSO.ACTF



ZERO TOLERANCE. ZERO EXCUSES.



ABUSE AN ANIMAL IN LEE COUNTY...GO TO JAIL.

PET SHAMPOO INGREDIENTS: WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW?

By Alice Jeromin, B.S. Pharmacy, DVM, DACVD

I often get asked “how often should I bathe my pet?” and “what should I use?”

Those are loaded questions because it depends if your pet has normal skin or has a skin problem due to underlying allergies, hypothyroidism, ichthyosis, sebaceous adenitis, seborrhea, etc.

See?! It’s not as simple as it sounds! Let’s go over some of the therapeutic ingredients in shampoos that you should consider depending upon your pet’s skin condition.

First, we are all aware of the benefits of shampooing: reduction of skin infections and microbial overgrowth, relief from itching and odor, reduction of debris on the skin as well as reduction of any skin changes such as crusting or excessive dander...and just giving an overall feeling of wellness.

A general cleansing shampoo is normally used and some owners prefer “hypoallergenic.” There really isn’t a sound definition of that term but normally it eludes to a product with less surfactant...which means less lathering. So don’t keep adding more shampoo to the pet to get a lather! Surfactants are often the cause of irritation and creating a hypoallergenic shampoo means less surfactant. Other general cleansing shampoos may contain oatmeal or aloe.

For dogs with underlying allergies such as environmental allergies (atopy), shampoos containing ceramides, phytosphingosines, essential fatty acids, or colloidal oatmeal are used to decrease dander, reduce bacterial and yeast overgrowth, and repair the skin barrier which is defective in canine atopy.

Antibacterial shampoos include ingredients such as benzoyl peroxide, chlorhexidine, and dilute bleach. Benzoyl peroxide is good for deep bacterial infections such as those that accompany demodectic mange but overuse can be too drying. No stronger than 3% should be used (OTC human products for acne are a higher concentration and should not be used on dogs). Chlorhexidine at 2-4% is effective against Staphylococcal skin bacteria when used as a 5–10 minute contact time. Dilute bleach at a 1:32 concentration made fresh daily can be used as a shampoo or a rinse in combination with either of the ingredients mentioned above (3oz household bleach in 32oz water).

Antifungal (or anti yeast) shampoo ingredients include ketoconazole, climbazole, or miconazole. These are often combined with chlorhexidine. Yeast are lipophilic (or lipid-loving) and oil-based shampoos should not be used in pets with yeast dermatitis as yeast LOVE oils.

Miscellaneous ingredients include tar shampoos...often too drying when used on dogs and **TAR BASED SHAMPOOS SHOULD NOT BE USED ON CATS**, salicylic acid which is a “keratolytic” meaning it strips off the top superficial layer in dogs with excessive dandruff, or selenium sulfide which can be effective in dogs with yeast skin infections.

Before using ANY topical product on your pet, consult your veterinarian about your pet’s specific skin condition. Remember that some products that are safely used on dogs are not safe to use on cats!



WHAT IS "PHOTOBIMODULATION?"

By Megan Davis DVM
Suburban Animal Hospital

Photobiomodulation therapy (PBMT) is more commonly known as laser therapy. You may also hear it referred to as cold laser, low level laser or phototherapy. These therapeutic lasers produce beams of light in both the visible and infrared spectrum that penetrate deep into the tissue and work on a cellular level.

PBMT has been shown to provide pain relief, reduce inflammation and accelerate wound healing.

In veterinary medicine, PBMT is most commonly used in older pets with arthritis to reduce their pain levels and improve their mobility. Sessions typically start off as several times a week and gradually taper down to a level that keeps the animal comfortable (often monthly). For these chronic pain cases it typically takes about six sessions to see significant improvement, although many clients report their pet acts like they're feeling better after the first session.

There are many other uses for PBMT in our pets. Pretty much anything that causes inflammation or pain!

- ◆ Intervertebral disc disease (IVDD)
- ◆ Inflamed ear canals, both new
- ◆ painful infections and chronic narrowed canal ones
- ◆ Hot spots, burns and lick granulomas



It is also used post operatively to spay/neuter incisions or complications such as scrotal hematomas. PBMT really helped my own dog with pain and swelling following her knee surgery.

Laser therapy is typically very well tolerated but should not be used over growth plates, in pregnant animals or in areas of known cancer. Depending on the power of the laser eye protection may be necessary for both the owner and the pet during the session.

MEET "KITTY"

This nine-year-old brindle beauty is in need of a safe and loving place to call home. She is reportedly very energetic, but needs to be an only pet.

She loves people and enjoys snuggle-time.



Kitty is residing at the Gulf Coast Humane Society located at 2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers. For additional information, please call 239-332-0364.

PROTECTING OUR ANIMALS: THE RANTINGS OF ANIMAL LOVERS OR SOMETHING MORE?

Have you ever looked deeply into the eyes of an animal? Any animal?

Many of us wonder about life, its meaning, our place in this universe.

Existence seems less about money, power and control and more about the realization that we are merely links in a chain...equal links...the breeze that cools us, the cat seated at



our feet, the tree providing shade...all equal links in a living, breathing universe.

Love and respect for nature, kindness and care for those different from ourselves...be it race, religion or species,

selflessness, respect for our environment and the value of life for every living creature just may be that key required to unlock the meaning of our intended purpose.

Your acceptance of your role in and obligation to nature, your respect for the people and creatures around you, your appreciation for the stars that light the night sky, may very well be the answer to your deep-rooted questions about your existence.

So, when your dog peers up at you, look a bit deeper. Look a bit longer. You may be wonderfully surprised by what you see.