MaKs Dog Training

Connection - Not Correction

Thanksgiving Dog Safety

What can go in your dog's bowl - and what must stay on the table

The short version: A little plain Thanksgiving food can be a nice treat for your dog. The trouble comes from the rich, seasoned, and sweet parts of the meal - and from well-meaning guests sharing them. Keep portions small, keep it plain, and when in doubt, leave it out.

Safe in small amounts - plain only

No butter, sauce, seasoning, skin, or bones:

- **Turkey meat** - plain cooked white meat, no skin, no bones
- **Sweet potato** - plain cooked, no marshmallow or sugar
- **Pumpkin** - plain canned pumpkin, not pie filling
- **Green beans** - plain fresh or cooked, not the casserole

Serve a few bites in your dog's bowl, not from the table.

Never feed these

- **Cooked bones and turkey skin** - bones splinter; skin is very fatty
- **Gravy and fatty drippings**
- **Onion, garlic, chives, and leeks** - including in stuffing and mashed potatoes
- **Grapes and raisins** - including in salads and desserts
- **Chocolate** and **xylitol** (birch sugar) in sugar-free desserts and some peanut butter - check the label
- **Raw yeast dough, alcohol, and nutmeg**

Keep plates, counters, and the trash out of reach - most accidents happen during cleanup.

The guest rule - nobody feeds the dog except you: Tell guests before the meal, kindly and clearly: please do not share food, slip treats under the table, or leave plates where your dog can reach them - not even a little bite. One rich or unsafe bite can make a dog sick. Give your dog a settled spot away from the table with a safe chew of its own.

Watch for pancreatitis - a rich meal can trigger it: Fatty foods such as skin, gravy, and drippings can inflame the pancreas, and signs may not show until hours or a day later. Call your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary clinic promptly if you see:

- Vomiting, especially more than once
- Refusing food or loss of appetite
- A sore belly, hunching, or stretching out in a "prayer" position
- Diarrhea
- Unusual tiredness or weakness
- Signs of dehydration

Do not wait it out if several signs appear together, or if your dog is a puppy, elderly, or already unwell.

Three quick habits for the day

- **Feed first, feast second:** give your dog its normal meal and a good walk or play session before guests arrive.
- **Secure the trash:** use a can with a lid or take scraps straight outside - bones and wrappers smell wonderful to a dog.
- **Keep a quiet spot ready:** a bed or crate away from the door and kitchen gives your dog a calm place when the house gets busy.

General information only - please talk to your vet first: This handout is general information only. It is not veterinary advice and is not a note from a vet. Please talk to your veterinarian before sharing any of these foods - especially if your dog has allergies or a health condition. If you think your dog ate something unsafe, or shows any of the signs above, contact your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary clinic right away rather than treating it at home.

MaKs Dog Training - Private, Individualized In-Home Dog Training
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