

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

In a couple of weeks pets and people will be moving around visiting family or friends. Mike and I will be taking that journey in December for the holidays and in preparation I did the last suggestion in the article – I got Chip and Lola Microchipped. The following was prepared by the ASPCA. They are simple safety tips and ones that we have heard before but it is good to have a little nudge.

Thanksgiving and pets go hand in hand... after all, aren't you forever thankful you **adopted your four-legged friend** and welcomed all those cold-nosed kisses into your life? However, before the celebration begins, it's a good idea to make sure your Turkey Day will be as pet-friendly as possible.

**Food Safety** - Thanksgiving is largely about food. Of course, not all **people foods** are safe for pets. Here are some Thanksgiving foods to be careful with: **Turkey** – A few small, boneless, and well-cooked pieces of turkey should be fine. But never offer your pal raw or undercooked turkey because it could contain salmonella bacteria. Keep the leftover carcass (and all bones) away from your pet, too. Dogs and cats have a hard time processing fatty foods like turkey skin, and even small pieces of bone can lead to gastrointestinal injury.

**Bread Dough** – If your doggie or kitty ingests raw bread dough, the yeast will continue to convert the dough's sugars into carbon dioxide and alcohol, a combination that could become life-threatening for your pal. **Pies and cakes** – Keep puppy and kitty noses out of the mixing bowl while you're baking because raw eggs can lead to food poisoning. Also, if you're using the artificial sweetener xylitol (found in certain **peanut butter** brands) in any desserts, be aware that this can be fatal if consumed by pets. **Chocolates** – A nice box of chocolates looks great on your table. However, **chocolate** can be harmful to both dogs and cats and can cause vomiting, diarrhea, high blood pressure, **seizures**, and other symptoms.

**Decoration Dangers** - Although pumpkins and decorative corn aren't toxic, ingesting too much can give your li'l buddy a bad case of tummy upset. You'll also want to be careful with candles that curious puppies and kitties could knock over, as well as any decorations that have small pieces that your pet could easily choke on.

**Floral Centerpieces** - Many people enjoy brightening up their dinner table with a pretty floral arrangement. Just make sure you are familiar with which plants are poisonous to **dogs** and **cats**. Some popular fall plants often found in festive decorations that are toxic to both include: Autumn crocus, Chrysanthemum and Acorns from oak trees. If you suspect your dog or cat has consumed a poisonous plant or substance, act fast. Contact your **veterinarian**, an emergency veterinary clinic, or the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (ASPCA APCC)** right away.

**Hosting Guests** - Both dogs and cats can become shy, nervous, or overly excited when you have a full house, especially if they have never met your guests before. If your pal seems anxious, try putting them in a quiet room away from the action with a favorite toy and plenty of fresh water.

You should also take care to watch the door when guests are coming and going. Excitable pets, even those who are typically well behaved, may try to make a break for it. Now is a good time to make sure your dog or cat has their proper ID with updated contact information. You may even want to consider a **microchip** just in case.

#### Dates to Save

- November 9 through December 23 – NHS Thrift Shop – Third Street - 11 am to 3 pm, Monday thru Saturday – Christmas items, gift ideas, clothing – you will find something you need and can afford.
- November 10 thru December 17 –NHS Holiday Thrift Items annex at Art Beat – 15845 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – 11 am to 3 pm – artificial trees, wreaths, lights, boughs and more – total sell goes to NHS animals.
- December 3 – My Villa – Christmas in Cable – Hwy 63 – 10 am to 3 p.m.
- December 3 – NHS Bake Sale – Hayward Canes Festival – Saturday at the High School – Bakers may contact Susan Sams at the NHS shelter – 715-634-5394