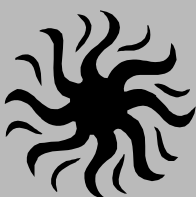


HUMANE SOCIETY
OF ST. JOSEPH
& BUCHANAN COUNTY

HOLIDAY PET CARE TIPS



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Help prevent Easter cruelty by keeping the following tips in mind.

EASTER

- Do not give your children a bunny, chick, or duck as a “special Easter present.” These extremely vulnerable little animals are poorly suited as pets. They require special feeding, care, and constant temperatures. Although unintentional, the vast majority of the baby bunnies, chicks and ducks who are given as Easter gifts die within a few weeks. Those animals who do survive the first few weeks are often released to animal care and control agencies, where many must be euthanized because no permanent homes can be found.



Small children often break their fragile bones and cause other fatal injuries. These animals are also subject to attacks from dogs and cats. You may contract salmonella (which causes severe inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract) from these chicks and ducks. Children are especially vulnerable to this disease.

This Easter you can help prevent cruelty by giving your little ones a stuffed animal. And, after the holiday, if your family is ready for a new pet, consider an adorable, adoptable dog or cat from a breed rescuer or your local animal shelter.

FOURTH OF JULY

July 5th is one of the busiest days of the year at animal shelters nationwide. Dogs are found miles from their homes, confused, disoriented, and exhausted. People hope to locate a missing dog that, terrified,



crashed through a window, jumped a high fence, or darted out an open door.

- If fireworks upset your pet, make sure someone stays with him. Keep him inside, safe from loud noises. Consult your veterinarian if you think your pet would benefit from a tranquilizer.

HALLOWEEN

Halloween can be a stressful and even dangerous time of year for pets. To keep your pet safe from the horrors of Halloween, follow these simple safety tips.

- All but the most social dogs and cats should be kept in a separate room during peak trick-or-treating hours. Too many strangers in unusual outfits can be scary and stressful for pets. Fill the room with toys and turn on a radio or television to keep them comfortable.

- When opening the door for trick-or-treaters, take care that your pet doesn't dart outside. Make sure they are wearing current identification, just in case. Keep all Halloween candy out of your pets' reach. Candy is unhealthy for your pets and tin foil and cellophane candy wrappers can be hazardous if swallowed.



- Don't leave your pet in the yard on Halloween. There have been stories of vicious pranksters who have teased, injured, and stolen pets on this night.

- Although the Humane Society of St. Joseph recommends that cats remain indoors at all times, it is especially important to keep your feline inside for several days before and after Halloween. Black cats in particular may be at risk from children's pranks or other cruelty-related incidents.

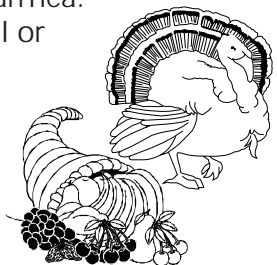
- Taking your dog trick-or-treating is not recommended, but if you must, it is important that they be on a leash and have current I.D. tags. Make sure your dog is very social, because they are going to encounter people in many different costumes, which can be frightening for them. It is also important to make sure that front yards are clear of children and other dogs before approaching a house with your pet.
- Don't dress up your dog or cat unless you know he or she loves it. If you decide to do so, make sure the costume isn't annoying or unsafe, and doesn't restrict her movement, vision, hearing or ability to breathe or bark. Avoid costumes with small or dangling accessories that she could chew off and possibly choke on.
- Keep decorations out of your pets' reach to ensure they don't risk any needless injuries. Watch where you place lit pumpkins and luminaries since they could create a potentially hazardous situation.

THANKSGIVING

A fabulous feast may be in store for you and your loved ones on the most food-oriented holiday of all - Thanksgiving. Although your pet may beg for some of the fixings, say no; remember your feast is not fit for your pet. Here are some things to be careful of during the Thanksgiving holidays.

- Too much fatty, rich, or even just new types of foods can give your pet an upset stomach or diarrhea. Both can be very painful or become quite serious.

- Bones are dangerous to dogs and cats because they can splinter and pierce internal organs causing



serious injury or death. Pieces of bone can lodge in your pets' throat and cause choking.

- That tasty string often used to tie up the turkey during roasting can tie up your pets' insides.
- Onions, often found in stuffing, destroy a dog's red blood cells, leading to anemia.
- Too much chocolate, especially baking chocolate, can be toxic to dogs and cats because their bodies are unable to process it.
- Do set aside a safe and quiet space for your pet during the commotion of the holiday, especially if you are expecting guests.

CHRISTMAS

It's a wonderful time of year for people. The winter season brings lots of fun and holiday festivities. Americans love to involve their pets in the holiday celebrations, but pet guardians should follow these safety tips for the holidays.

- The following food items can be harmful to your pet if ingested; alcoholic beverages, chocolate, coffee, onions, salt and yeast dough. Don't give your pet leftovers.



- If you have guests, consider keeping your pet in a quiet room during the festivities. This way, you won't have to worry about them slipping out an open door, and they won't be frightened by the noise and commotion.
- The holidays are simply not a good time to give an animal as a gift. Having a companion animal means a daily commitment to that animal for its entire life (10-20 years). Becoming a companion animal

guardian is a personal decision that should never be made by someone else. In the midst of all the holiday fun, the many needs of a new pet could be neglected. These “presents” can’t easily be exchanged. After the holiday season, every animal shelter gets their fill of these well-intended but unwanted “gifts.” Instead, wrap a box filled with a stuffed animal or pet supplies and a gift certificate for the adoption of a pet after the holidays are over.

- Don’t leave your pet unattended in the room with the Christmas tree. Tree water can contain fertilizers and bacteria that can upset your pet’s stomach. Whether your tree is live or artificial, both kinds of needles are sharp and indigestible. Make sure your tree is steady and secure so that it can’t be knocked over. Keep lights and ornaments high enough on the tree to be out of reach of your pets.

- Avoid using popcorn strands, ribbons, tinsel, angel hair and glass ornaments. If ingested they can cause choking or intestinal blockage.

- Avoid pet exposure to electric cords. Pets often try to chew them and may get badly shocked or electrocuted. Place wires out of reach.

- Some holiday plants can be harmful to your pet. Holly, ivy, lilies, mistletoe, and poinsettias can be poisonous to dogs and cats. Keep your pets away from these holiday plants.

- Make sure holiday gifts for pets are safe. Items such as plastic toys and rawhide sticks may be dangerous.

