

Tips for a HAPPY HOLIDAY

By Linda, HSCC Humane Coordinator

The holidays are upon us once again. There is all the fun, festivities and food, but what is fun for you may not be fun for your pets.

All the excitement can be very stressful for an animal. Make a quiet place for your cat or dog away from all the chaos. This could be a crate or a box with a blanket and a toy. It could also be in the corner of a room that your guests won't go into. When "Fido" has had his fill of the festivities, he can go to his quiet place and relax.

Thanksgiving brings lots of food. Please don't give "Sassy" her own plate. "But, mom, it's the holiday" food scraps can cause indigestion and diarrhea for your pet. Mmm---can you smell the onions in the stuffing? So can "Fluffy", but don't give her any. Never give your pet poultry bones. These bones splinter and can cause blockages or tears in the intestinal tract.

Christmas brings even more issues for your furry friends. Certain foods and beverages are dangerous. "Rover" may really like that cocktail you left on the table, but he WILL be sick! Some pets have died from ingesting alcoholic beverages, so be safe and keep your drink with you. No chocolate of any kind and no candy that contains Xylitol should be given as a treat. Many types of nuts are also dangerous; so don't share your fudge brownie with the nuts on top.

Look around the room. Aren't the plants pretty? "Patches" thinks so too and he wants to taste them all. Holly, Mistletoe and Poinsettias are toxic. You may not want to have these plants in your home. Remember, nothing is out of reach for your cat.

If you would like a puppy or kitten as a gift for someone, consider waiting until after the holidays to bring the baby home. All the oohs and aaahs of everyone passing the newcomer around is very stressful and the pet can become ill. A better idea might be to put all the accessories (bowls, collars, leashes, toys, etc.) under the tree. Everyone will know the new baby is coming soon. If possible, hang a picture of the wee one on the tree. If you keep these things in mind this holiday season, everyone will have a good time. So, from all the animals at the Humane Society, Merry Christmas and we'll see you next year.