



FALL 2008 Gazette

A newsletter for people and their pets



JORDAN CREEK
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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Keeping Your Pet Safe During the Holidays

As the holiday season quickly approaches, it is important to remember the potentially dangerous situations that can arise for our pets as we spend those precious moments with family and friends.

Trick or Treat!

What do YOU have that's good to eat? Those yummy treats that we find in our Halloween bowls and treat bags can be potentially dangerous to our pets. Not only can packaging, like foil, plastic wrap, and sucker sticks, become a problem once ingested, but candy, such as chocolate, can be extremely toxic to our pets. Chocolate contains a substance called theobromine and caffeine which, in concentrated amounts, can cause over stimulation of the heart and central nervous system. This can result in hyperactivity but also more severe clinical signs such as seizures, convulsions, and heart arrhythmias. Most dogs, once chocolate is consumed, will have mild to severe vomiting and diarrhea, depending on the amount and type of chocolate consumed. Dark baking chocolate and cocoa beans or powder contain the most concentrated theobromine levels. Milk chocolate can still be potentially toxic to dogs depending on their size and amount consumed.

Remember to keep that candy bowl out of reach from those sniffing noses, but what to do if your dog dips into your Halloween bag?

First, determine what kind and how much chocolate you think your dog consumed. Second, call your veterinarian with your dog's age, weight, and details of the type and amount consumed.



This cute little pumpkin is George, who belongs to Amy Dewey, our practice manager.

If your dog has consumed a large amount of chocolate or a type that is very concentrated, we will most likely induce vomiting (if the incidence occurred within the last few hours). If it has been longer, we will want to examine your pet and determine the best medical treatment.

Thanksgiving

Turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberries, and pumpkin pie – they make all of

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Contact us by calling 515-224-9500 or visit our website at www.jordancreek.myvetonline.com



