



EDOA NEWS

Newsletter of the Eastham Dog Owners' Association

A Doggie Thanksgiving

For **Monty**, Thanksgiving is his kind of party. First there is the stream of guests to announce—loudly, much to the annoyance of the chef. *Here comes another of my favorite people. Oh boy.*

Then there are the smells foreshadowing LOTS of dropped food. And not just the discards from those who decide to drop their unliked vegetables under the table. *Oh, don't want that turkey skin? I will take that from you.* Don't get too nervous carrying that over-full gravy boat. Monty is right there for a quick clean-up of any spills.



Everyone eventually gets full and leaves a bit on the plate. Any dish left laying around is subject to rapid response cleanup. *I am a Labrador retriever. You know that, right?* Sweets are not exempted. Some of that premium chocolate, or uneaten pie. "Hey the dog licked my pecan pie!" "Can dogs eat pumpkin pie?" *I think I'm allowed some of that.*

You know that someone is going to put a glass within 12 inches from the edge of cocktail table and that happy tail is going to swipe that adult beverage right onto the floor. *Thanks, I can reach it now.* Quick, get a mop. *Ha, I'm way faster than a mop.*

Kids love to play with the dog. They play ball until the old dog is ready to drop. They shout commands and use his name so often and loudly that the poor dog is about to have a seizure. Those rascally kids are also easily entertained by sneaking the dog a few scraps. So fun.

The next day we work on the leftovers. Empty storage containers are clogging up the dishwasher. *I'll take care of that. I don't mind that it smells a little funky.* At some point a few guests will be swearing they will never eat again. Too much food? *Not me. You know I'm a lab, don't you?*

Later, the dog is over in the corner adding his dyspeptic confessions of gluttony. *Achchch, Wahaack, Ghaaak, Waapp.* "Where is the number for the Poison Control Center? They want HOW MUCH \$\$\$ to give us information??"

Well, lucky for Monty, we checked up on the do's and don'ts and threats to dog health and headed off most of these potential holiday disasters. A few, I confess, were learned from the best teacher—experience.

- Guests are warned about drinks near the edge of low tables.
- Kids are warned about dangers of feeding the dog. It helps to let the kiddos know who will clean up the dog vomit if they are caught feeding the dog.
- Sweets and salt are not good. Many raw or lightly cooked vegetables are good treats like beans and carrots. No onion or garlic.
- Anything doughy or greasy is not good.
- Leftovers will have higher bacteria levels and dogs may be more sensitive than people to unfamiliar foods.
- Bones, especially of cooked poultry presents a choking hazard.
- Overstimulation can make your dog feel unwell. Go easy on the scented candles too. Monitor activity and excitement and let the dog go to a quiet place for a nap. Maybe with one of the kids, or better yet, next to Uncle Bob taking his tryptophan nap. It will make a great photo-op.



Remember, prevention is the best medicine. Vets are going to be closed and the emergency services are far away and very costly. If you suspect the dog has had too much of a bad thing knowing how to induce vomiting is basic first aid. Forcing the taking of hydrogen peroxide (3%) works within about 5 minutes.

With a little vigilance your dog will enjoy having a good time with the family and you can rest easy knowing you have taken the necessary precautions.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, from all of us at EDOA!

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Thank you for your support.

Suggestions & Comments:

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