



**Easy-to-learn Dog Tricks**

**Crawl:**

1. Put your dog in a "down" position
2. Kneel or sit next to your dog with a small treat
3. Drag the treat away in front of him on the floor. Keep your free hand over the dog to "help" him stay down near the floor. Practice!
4. If you don't need to "help" him stay down any more, try placing the treat a few feet away and dragging your finger on the floor slowly to the treat.
5. Now, add a command to it such as "crawl" and keep practicing!

**Patience is key!**

**OUR HOURS:**

<b>MON</b>	7:30am-7:30pm
<b>TUES</b>	7:30am-6pm
<b>WED</b>	7:30am-7:30pm
<b>THURS</b>	7:30am-6pm
<b>FRI</b>	7:30am-6pm
<b>SAT</b>	8am-1pm
<b>SUN</b>	5pm-5:30pm**

\*\*boarding pick ups and drop offs only

# Companion Chatter

NOVEMBER— 2013

## A Thanksgiving Meal for Dogs

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to celebrate the blessings of the season with family and friends. With a bounty of home-cooked food in your home, you may be tempted to share a few tasty treats with your canine companion, too. After all, who can resist a dog's soulful eyes begging for just one little gobble-full of turkey? Wafting aromas of hot baked sweet potatoes, herb-filled stuffing, or spicy pumpkin pie are much too alluring for even the best-behaved [pet](#) to pass up.

But hold off feeding your dog from the Thanksgiving table. Veterinary experts warn that many of the traditional holiday recipes for people are dangerous to your dog's health. According to the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, feeding dogs large quantities of a new food, as well as fatty foods, such as turkey gravy, mashed potatoes with butter, and dressing, can cause pancreatitis. This potentially deadly inflammation of the pancreas produces severe symptoms of diarrhea or vomiting.

Forget giving your dog a holiday bone, too. Cooked turkey, duck, geese, and other bird bones are extremely dangerous to dogs. Cooked bones splinter and break easily, possibly causing sharp pieces to tear the intestines. A bone could pass by itself, but more often it becomes lodged in the dog's throat, which could cause choking, or it could possibly cause an intesti-

nal obstruction. Both situations require emergency veterinary attention and likely surgery. Eliminate turkey skin as well. It's hard to digest and high in fat, and the seasoning used to baste the poultry skin could give your dog an upset stomach.

Desserts are also off-limits. Chocolate can be fatal to dogs because it contains theobromine, which can increase your dog's heart rate and cause hyperactivity, increased panting, twitching, diarrhea, and vomiting. Even sugar-free items that contain xylitol can be dangerous, causing stomach or intestinal irritation.

Beware of onions, too! These popular Thanksgiving ingredients used in stuffing, vegetable dishes, and some salads can cause life-threatening anemia when a dog ingests large amounts.

### Healthy Thanksgiving Treats for Your Dog

If you must share your Thanksgiving meal with your dog, do it safely with the following healthy [foods](#), rather than feeding it directly from the table. Resist giving in to those pleading canine faces by adding a few things in your dog's bowl before you sit down to dine. When your dog is full, it's less likely to bother you.

For a dog who's accustomed to eating commercial dry dog

food, feeding a bowlful of fresh treats all at once is almost certain to cause intestinal upset. Instead, feed small amounts at different meals.

Here are a few [healthy](#) Thanksgiving choices for dogs:

- White meat turkey without the skin
- Plain baked or sweet potatoes without the skin
- Steamed carrots, broccoli, or string beans without any butter, sauce or seasoning
- Salt-free canned chicken broth
- Plain canned pumpkin, but not the pumpkin pie filling
- Sliced raw apples

### Safe Cleanup

Thanksgiving leftovers can also be dangerous to your canine companion and should be stored or discarded out of paw's reach. Turkey [bones](#), the string used to tie the poultry legs together, and the carcass itself can be lethal to your dog if eaten.

There's no reason why your dog can't join in the festivities – just make sure that you feed it safe treats, and everyone will be happy.

## Cook a Canine Feast

Want to bake a healthy Thanksgiving treat for your dog? Try some sweet potato cookies from "The Ultimate Dog Treat Cookbook," by Liz Palika.

Mix together:

- 2 cups diced sweet potato, cooked until very tender
- 1-1/4 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup warm water
- 2 large eggs
- 1 2.5-ounce jar turkey baby food

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and cool thoroughly before serving. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

Help us help those in need this holiday season by donating canned, non-perishable, items or supplies. We have a box in reception that details what they would like to see donated, or you can ask one of our receptionists. As a special gift to those that donate, the clinic will be offering two free dog baths a day to those who donate more than 10 cans or boxes of non-perishable food items or supplies.



**Marissa E.**  
kennel attendant

## Employee Spotlight

Marissa was born and raised right here in Blacksburg, and graduated from Blacksburg High School in 2013. She started working at Companion right after high school and is now a full-time employee at the clinic working various positions. She is a full-time college student studying for a degree in Human Services, and a full-time mommy to her 1 and a half year old son, Grayson. She lives with her son, her boyfriend, and her 2 year old lab/heeler mix, Jax. In her free time she likes to fish, ride horses, be outdoors, interact with animals any chance she gets and most of all, spend time with her family and her friends.

## Petly

Some of you may have received an invite for our new Petly page. Petly is a personalized page for your pets that can only be seen by you. This page is a great source of information for you and your pet. You now have the ability to request appointments and prescriptions on your computer at your own convenience. You can also access your pet's vaccine due dates and print them out at home! Interested? All we need from you is an email address to get started! We have also started sending out email and text confirmations for appointments. Ask a receptionist if you have any questions!

## Holiday Hours

- Nov 27—CLOSE EARLY at 6pm
- Nov 28—CLOSED all day
- Dec 24—CLOSE EARLY at 2pm
- Dec 25—CLOSED all day
- Jan 1—CLOSED all day

## EMERGENCIES

If your pet has an emergency after hours, a vet is on call here until 10pm to answer your questions and help you decide if you need emergency care. If your pet needs to see a doctor you can go to the Vet School at VA Tech (540-231-4621, Town and Country (540-382-5042 or Emergency Veterinary Services of Roanoke (540-563-8575).

