

# News

## The Thanksgiving Feast: Sharing isn't Always Caring

By Dr. Jasmine Shanelle Streeter, Veterinarian For The Skanner News



Dr. Jasmine and her dog Sheba

Three weeks 'til Thanksgiving and I've already got my grocery list together: ham, Cornish hen, mac and cheese, collard greens, yams and sweet potato pie make the list yearly. If this is your first time reading my column, you will soon find out how much I love food. Because of my interests in the delicacies of life, my pets have taken up an interesting habit of following me around to elicit sympathy for human treats.

A balanced pet diet is best, and dog and cat treats are made in a variety of flavors to mimic the real thing – but my dog and cat seem to know the difference. I usually try my best to resist, but occasionally, I give in and share a tender morsel or two to ease my suffering of sad, pitiful eyes. (Ugh, they got me again!)

Whether you intentionally plan on sharing your Thanksgiving meal (hopefully not under the table), or if you acciden-

tally drop a chicken leg on the kitchen floor, it is helpful to know what foods are safe and what to avoid to help your pet make it through the holidays in peace. Above is a brief list of safe and unsafe ingredients for your pet to consume during Thanksgiving.

If you're in a baking mood, apples, pears, and peaches are safe to consume as long as the seeds or pits (which contain cyanide that are dangerous to humans and pets) are removed. If you bake cookies, shortbread, or cake that uses macadamia nuts, grapes or raisins, avoid letting pets eat these items if they fall

CATEGORY	SAFE	AVOID
<b>Fruits</b>	Apples, pears, peaches	Macadamia nuts, grapes, raisins
<b>Vegetables</b>	Pumpkin, squash, green beans, corn, carrots, zucchini, bell pepper, sweet potato, parsley	Onions, garlic, avocado
<b>Grains</b>	Bread, rice, oatmeal	Yeast dough
<b>Meats</b>	Lean turkey, chicken, pork or beef, salmon	Fatty cuts, bacon, raw meats, bones
<b>Other</b>	Eggs, marshmallow, cheese	Raw eggs, chocolate, caffeine, alcohol, sugary, salty, spicy foods, diet foods containing xylitol

to the floor – no matter how small.

The vegetables listed above make wonderful healthy snacks. Set aside unseasoned vegetables for your pet before adding onion powder, garlic powder, or salt to your recipe. Small amounts of bread can ease a whiney puppy (hence the term "hush puppies") – but yeast dough should be avoided as it can expand in the stomach and cause tummy upsets. Raw or fatty cuts of meats should always be avoided can lead to a life threatening illness known as pancreatitis which is extremely

painful. Bones, especially hollow ones (poultry) pose choking hazards or a risk of tearing the esophagus or intestines. Chocolate, caffeine, alcohol and xylitol can be deadly (even in small doses, depending on the concentration) – and raw eggs put your pet at risk for Salmonella poisoning.

Whether you are a habitual table food feeder, messy cook, or occasional treat indulger it is always best to know what foods are okay to consume with your trusty companion. I wish you a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving meal this holiday for you and your furry family.

*Do you have a pet topic you'd like to learn more about? I'd love to hear from you! Write me at drjasmine@theskanner.com.*

## Could Legal Marijuana Happen in Vegas?

Nevadans will vote on legalization Nov. 8

By Michelle Rindels Associated Press

LAS VEGAS – Nevada already has legal brothels, round-the-clock casinos and a coy catchphrase declaring that "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." If voters approve, the state could soon add another vice in the form of recreational marijuana.

A proposal on the Nov. 8 state ballot would legalize pot, and entrepreneurs hope its passage could someday allow the drug at Las Vegas' glamorous nightclubs and perhaps provide the framework for a future Amsterdam-style cannabis district.

"I really think this would be the third-largest market in the country," said Derek Peterson, whose company operates medical marijuana dispensaries called Blum. He predicts that only California and New York would offer a bigger customer base than Las Vegas and its 42 million tourists a year. "I think it should be able to fit in really well with the whole dayclub/nightclub thing."

Nevada has allowed medical marijuana since 2000, and Peterson sees recreational pot as an alternative for visitors tired of cocktails that can top \$15 apiece and inflict hangovers. But before waitresses begin delivering high-grade marijuana at clubs along the Las Vegas Strip, weed proponents will have to win over not just voters, who narrowly support the initiative in polls, but a risk-averse casino industry.

The Nevada Resort Association came out against the measure, pointing to an opinion from gambling regulators that casino owners should avoid the marijuana industry because the substance remains illegal under federal law. Las Vegas Sands owner Sheldon Adelson has bankrolled most of the opposition, pouring \$2 million of his fortune into a campaign that raises the possibility that small children could become intoxicated from candy-like marijuana edibles.

Adelson also has contributed \$1.5 million in Arizona and Massachusetts, a significant share of all anti-marijuana donations there.

Read the rest of this story at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

# BLACK NATIVITY

A Gospel Song-Play by Langston Hughes

DIRECTED BY JERRY FOSTER

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