

humane tails

Feeding Pets People Food: What Not To Do

Although our pets love to beg for scraps at the table, it's not always a good idea to succumb to their pleading! Foods that might be delicious to us are actually quite dangerous for our furry friends. Some may cause only mild digestive upsets, while others can cause severe illness, and even death.

Nutrition experts from the ASPCA have put together a list of the top toxic people foods to avoid feeding your pet. If you suspect your pet has eaten any of the following foods, please note the amount ingested and contact your veterinarian.

Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine

These products all contain substances called methylxanthines. When ingested, they can cause vomiting and diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and even death.

Alcohol

Alcoholic beverages and food products containing alcohol can cause vomiting, diarrhea, decreased coordination, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, abnormal blood acidity, coma and even death.

Avocado

The leaves, fruit, seeds and bark of avocados contain Persin, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. Birds and rodents are especially sensitive to avocado poisoning, and can develop congestion, difficulty breathing and fluid accumulation around the heart.

Macadamia Nuts

Macadamia nuts have caused weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors and hyperthermia in dogs. Signs usually appear within 12 hours of ingestion and last approximately 12 to 48 hours.



Grapes and Raisins

Although the toxic substance within grapes and raisins is unknown, these fruits can cause kidney failure. In pets that already have certain health problems, signs may be more dramatic.

Raw/Undercooked Meat, Eggs and Bones

Raw meat and raw eggs can contain bacteria that can be harmful to pets. Feeding raw bones may seem like a natural and healthy option; however, this can be very dangerous for a domestic pet who might choke on bones, or sustain a grave injury should the bone splinter and become lodged in or puncture your pet's digestive tract.

Onions, Garlic, Chives

These vegetables and herbs can cause gastrointestinal irritation and could lead to red blood cell damage. An occasional low dose, such as what might be found in pet foods or treats, likely will not cause a problem, but do not give your pets large quantities of these foods.

There are more human foods pets should avoid, but it's important for owners to remember that human food is not always safe, or healthy, for your pet!

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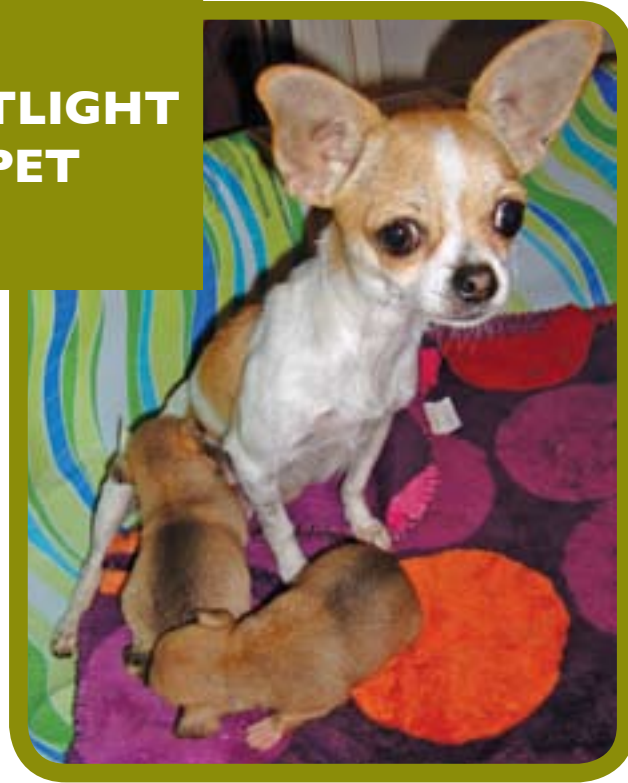


DONATIONS NEEDED

We desperately need your financial support today. The Gulf Coast Humane Society does not receive any local, state or federal funding so we cannot continue our mission without your help. Please help us save them and continue bringing joy to Gulf Coast families. Donate online at www.GulfCoastHumaneSociety.org or call us (239) 332-0364, ext 304.



SPOTLIGHT PET



- Natalie -
Age 2
Female

When Mama Chihuahua came to us in December, she was pregnant and had gone into labor but couldn't give birth. Because our vet was not on-site at the time, we took her to another vet for a C-Section. Her water had broken the day before, so we didn't know if any of the puppies would make it; however, the vet was able to save the mother and all three puppies. Because we had to go to an outside vet, we incurred a bill of \$850. While we won't have any trouble finding homes for the whole family, we could really use some help via monetary donations to pay the bill.



It's a whole new year, which means a whole new list of resolutions. Here at the GCHS, ours remains the same: to find a loving, permanent new home for every adoptable pet in our shelter. It's a difficult task, but one we gladly take on each year with passion and determination.

Because we do not place time limits on adoptable animals, many pets stay at GCHS for months, even years. We need your support now more than ever. Donations help create life-saving options for hundreds of animals in need annually. Your generous donation of time, talent and financial support are real acts of love that will help the Gulf Coast Humane Society find forever homes for our animals.

Your contributions DO make a difference ... no matter how large or small! We invite you to come by and visit. Help us care for critters; walk a dog, cuddle a cat or attend a volunteer orientation. Your active involvement with the animals will help you see the impact of your generous gifts.

We hope you'll consider a New Year commitment to help us continue to fulfill our mission. Your support will help many pets less fortunate than your own and will be very much appreciated. Thank you and Happy New Year!

NEW CLINIC HOURS!

Our Veterinary Clinic has added new days & times.
For an appointment, call (239) 332-2719.

Monday	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ask Us Why

Q. I have three cats, and my youngest is a neutered female. She recently began spraying on the furniture! Is this normal? What can be causing it?

A. It is important to have your cat checked for health problems that may be leading to this behavior. For example, bladder infections or stones in the bladder could cause her to spray urine.

If you get a clean bill of health from the vet, there are a few things you can try:

- Change the type of litter you are using
- Take the cover off your litter box
- If you have more than one cat, make sure to have at least one litter box per cat
- Be sure to clean up any urine with an odor neutralizer

Since you have more than one cat, this may be causing her stress, and it is important that you have plenty of clean litter boxes and a private place for her to go. Good luck!



January 29
Verandah Golf Outing

February 12
Yappy Hour and Stroll
6 pm - 8 pm
Bell Tower Shops
Fort Myers

February 13
Adopt-a-thon & Low Cost Clinic
11 am - 3 pm
Call for appt: 332-2719
Gulf Coast
Humane Society

Clinic Corner

Spay or Neuter Your Pet

The most obvious reason for spaying or neutering is to prevent adding to the pet overpopulation problem; however, there are many other benefits. Spaying or neutering your pet can save you a lot of money by preventing serious health problems including uterine, ovarian and testicular cancer. By preventing pregnancy, spaying eliminates a source of great physical stress for female animals, not to mention the complications that may occur. Neutering reduces or eliminates territorial aggression (including marking territory and fighting to defend it), as well as reduces the risk of prostate enlargement, tumors and infection.

By improving a pet's health, spaying or neutering can also increase her or his lifespan. Best of all, altering is the first step toward preventing homelessness, and will allow a pet more opportunities to be a member of the family.

The Low Cost Animal Healthcare Clinic at Gulf Coast Humane Society offers spay/neuter services. Please call (239) 332-2719 and schedule an appointment for your pet.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING AROUND HERE AND WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PET-FRIENDLY EVENTS.

FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE EVENTS LISTED OR TO SEE IF WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN YOUR EVENT, CALL (239) 332-0364, EXT 303.

Overflowing with Felines!

At the height of kitten season, five kittens were born to Annie, who was pregnant when she arrived at GCHS. One of our volunteers fostered Annie and her kittens until they were ready to be adopted. Once back at the shelter, all five kittens found new homes. Two of the kittens, whom we called Rosalie and Abel, were adopted by a family who had come in looking for siblings – and were very happy to see we had some.

The brother and sister, now called Tara and Alex, are very loved, spoiled and living happily in Naples with their new family!

Tara and Alex, along with their three siblings, were all very lucky. We have many kittens come in during the summer months and it is sometimes difficult to get them all adopted. In fact, many of their contemporaries are still at the shelter, almost grown up and longing to find a permanent home. We love cats and kittens here at GCHS, but we are simply overflowing with these adorable animals. We urge you to come in and find your new family member!



HAPPY TAILS

We always love hearing how our recently adopted animals are doing. We received an update on Ralph, a hound puppy that was adopted in the fall. His new mom tells us that Ralph is doing wonderfully and is a very happy puppy (as you can see in the photo). Ralph has gone on many field trips to the dog park, neighbor's backyards and for rides in the car. And, he has already attended puppy school at Petsmart. Way to go, Ralph!



Supplies Needed:

We are big fans of the Kuranda beds for dogs at our shelter, and so happy to hear they are now available for cats! The new Kuranda Cat Towers are a great way to provide exercise and stress relief for shelter cats. The towers' staggered levels provide cozy nooks that help provide privacy and reduce conflict between cats. Another great benefit is the design of the towers allows us to maximize space! To order, visit their website at www.Kuranda.com.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

