

# What's really in the bowl?

Most pet owners don't know.  
That's about to change.



## Week 2

### Festive Feeding Do's and Don'ts

#### KEEPING YOUR DOG SAFE AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is an exciting time for families, and dogs are often at the heart of the celebrations. The festive season does not need to feel restrictive for pet owners. With a little awareness, it is easy to keep your dog safe without changing how you celebrate. Knowing which foods and habits to avoid reduces the risk of upset stomachs, stress and unnecessary vet visits, helping your dog enjoy the season comfortably and safely.

#### SAFE FOODS

Small portions of plain cooked meat with no skin or bones can be shared safely. Simple cooked vegetables like carrots or green beans are also suitable. Any food offered should be completely plain, with no seasoning, gravy or rich sauces, as Christmas dishes are often high in salt, fat and heavy flavourings.

#### FOODS TO AVOID

Many festive foods are unsafe for dogs. Chocolate, mince pies, Christmas pudding, fruit cake, raisins and grapes should always be avoided. Foods containing artificial sweeteners such as xylitol can be harmful even in small amounts. Onions, leeks and garlic, which often appear in stuffing and gravies, are also unsafe and should never be shared with dogs.

#### LEFTOVERS & GIFT BAGS

- Festive leftovers and crowded surfaces can make it easier for dogs to reach food they normally would not.
- Wrappings, open sweet tins and gift bags on the floor can quickly become tempting.
- Dropped food is common during gatherings.
- Keeping plates and snacks out of reach helps prevent accidental access to unsafe foods

#### CHOOSING THE RIGHT CHEW

Many festive treats are heavily processed, brightly coloured or made with artificial ingredients, offering little nutritional value.

Rawhide can become very hard and may pose a choking risk. Pig ears can turn slightly brittle as they are chewed and may create firm edges that irritate the mouth or throat.

#### A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS WITH DEARBOY PETCARE

At Dearboy Petcare, we want dogs to enjoy the festive season just as much as their families do, without any unnecessary risks or stress. By understanding which foods to avoid, which treats can be safely enjoyed and how to keep your dog comfortable during the celebrations, you can relax knowing they are happy and healthy throughout the holidays.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Dearboy Petcare.**