

Foods That Can Kill Your Dog

We all love our pets and would never do anything to hurt them. So, nothing would be worse than having your dog sick, tired, or even dead simply because you rewarded them with the wrong type of food. This list will help you avoid that horrible problem, so feel free to print it and keep it handy somewhere. However, please be aware that this is NOT an exhaustive list.

This is simply a list of the most common foods that people give their dogs, so error on the side of caution if you're not sure. Better to be safe than sorry!

Alcohol – alcohol does the same things to dogs that it does to humans, but remember: dogs are smaller. This means that it takes far less alcohol to create the same damaging effects. Also, they have no alcohol tolerance. Just one beer can cause permanent liver damage in a small dog, and at the very least will make the dogs sick and dehydrated. It may be funny to get Fido drunk, but don't do it (Fido will thank you).

Avocado – Avocados will make your dog extremely sick because they contain persin. Obviously, the most common way that this is given to dogs is guacamole, but all parts of the avocado tree contain persin. So, if you have an avocado tree, make sure to keep your dogs away.

Bones – The problem with giving your dog a bone is that the cooking process severely softens the bone, to the point that it can easily be chewed and swallowed.

Caffeine – Caffeine will affect your dog's heart rate and can cause permanent damage. It can also cause kidney problems, but even before the medical issues it will make your dog very difficult to work with and control. Keep the Red Bull to yourself!

Candy – Candy that contains Xylitol causes vomiting and can cause kidney and pancreas problems. But don't worry about the Xylitol; don't give them any candy regardless of what's in it.

Chocolate – You already know that dogs can't have chocolate. Everyone does. Even cats! The problem with chocolate (besides caffeine) is theobromine, which is a stimulant that affects the nervous system. Only .1 oz (per pound of body weight) of baking chocolate will get your dog sick, so be careful!

Dairy – Long story short, dogs are lactose intolerant. It will make them sick, give them extreme stomach problems, and can cause intestinal pain. That means no milk, butter, yogurt, ice cream, anything dairy.

Fat – this is a no brainer, yet people constantly give dogs the fat trimmings from their steak. Straight fat is just as bad for you as your dog, and it will cause heart problems and obesity.

Grapes – Grapes can cause kidney failure in dogs, but here's the interesting part: we don't know why. Thus far science has been unable to identify the toxin in grapes, but we do know for sure that even two grapes can be lethal for a dog.

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Nuts – Of all of these, macadamia nuts are the most dangerous. Five to ten of them can cause shaking, vomiting, and even paralyze the dog's hind legs. Again, be extremely careful to keep macadamia nuts out of your dog's reach.

Onions – Onions can destroy red blood cells, making your dog tired, dehydrated, and with a very weak immune system (though the white blood cells do the fighting, the red feed the organs that facilitate the white). Regardless of whether the onion is dried, powdered, or cooked; your dog should not eat it.

P fruits – Persimmons, peaches, plums... They all have pits, which your dog can choke on (even if they do swallow it, the pits have cyanide) so avoid any fruit with a pit.

Raw dough – raw dough made with yeast will expand in the dog's stomach, and if it expands enough to rupture the stomach lining the dog can die of internal bleeding.

Raw eggs – prevent absorption of some B vitamins, and contrary to popular belief do not help make a dog's coat more 'shiny'. Ironically, they severely damage the dog's coat.

Raw proteins – they pose the same risk to dogs as they do to humans and are very difficult to digest. You run the risk of salmonella, E. coli, or getting very severe worms.

Salt – excessive salinity will make a dog EXTREMELY dehydrated and can cause kidney failure. Never salt a dog's food.

I honestly don't understand why someone would give a dog some of these things (such as raw dough) but now you have a good list to go by. I sincerely hope that it helps you and your dog!

-Jake Taryan (and Panna)

