



Pet Poison Prevention

We would like to take the opportunity to remind pet owner's that not all human food is safe for our pets. Here is a list of dangerous table foods and the affect they could have on your pet's body.

Alcohol

Alcohol is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream and affects pets quickly. Ingestion of alcohol can cause dangerous drops in blood sugar, blood pressure and body temperature. Intoxicated animals can experience seizures and respiratory failure. Products such as desserts containing alcohol or yeast-containing doughs are often unknown culprits.

Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine

Chocolate, coffee and caffeine all contain substances called methylxanthines, which are found in cacao seeds, the fruit of the plant to make coffee and in nuts of an extract used in some sodas. When ingested by pets, methylxanthines can cause vomiting and diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and even death. Note that darker chocolate is more dangerous than milk chocolate. White chocolate has the lowest level of methylxanthines, while baking chocolate contains the highest.

Fatty Foods

Foods that are high in fat can cause vomiting, diarrhea and pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) in pets. Fight the temptation to share these kinds of table scraps (ie: steak, pork, bacon, any cooking grease and skin from chicken) and give a healthy treat instead.

Grapes and Raisins

Avoid the wrath of grapes - keep them away from dogs! Just a few grapes or raisins can damage your dog's kidneys or even prove deadly. Even small amounts of raisins in trail mix or snack boxes can pose a problem.

Macadamia Nuts

Popular in many candies and cookies, macadamia nuts should never be given to pets. Lethargy, vomiting and loss of muscle control are among the effects of macadamia nut ingestion.

Onions and Garlic

In any form, even powdered, onions and garlic can endanger your pet's health. Ingestion of small amounts can result in mild gastrointestinal upset, while larger amounts can cause severe anemia, particularly with long-term ingestion (like sprinkling it on your pet's food).

Salt

Believe it or not, common table salt is poisonous to your pet, but it's not usually from table scraps. The source is often what surprises pet owners: pets often experience salt toxicity as a result of eating household play dough, swallowing too much ocean salt water or ingesting paint balls, which are loaded with salt. Salt toxicity can be very severe and results in neurologic signs such as in coordination, seizures and brain swelling, and needs to be treated carefully by a veterinarian.

Xylitol

Xylitol is a sweetener found in many products, including gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste. It can cause insulin release in most species, which can lead to liver failure. The increase in insulin leads to hypoglycemia (lowered blood sugar). Initial signs of toxicosis include vomiting, lethargy and loss of coordination. Signs can progress to recumbancy and seizures. Elevated liver enzymes and liver failure can be seen within a few days.

Milk

Because pets (including cats) do not possess significant amounts of lactase (the enzyme that breaks down lactose in milk), milk and other milk-based products cause them diarrhea or other digestive upset.

Raw/Undercooked Meat, Eggs, Bones

Raw meat and raw eggs can contain bacteria such as Salmonella and E. Coli that can be harmful to pets. In addition, raw eggs contain an enzyme called avidin that decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin), which can lead to skin and coat problems. Feeding your pet raw bones may seem like a natural and healthy option that might occur if your pet lived in the wild. However, this can be very dangerous for a domestic pet, which might choke on bones, or sustain a grave injury should the bone splinter and become lodged in or puncture your pet's digestive tract.