



Foods That Can Hurt Your Foster Dog

What Not To Feed Your Dog

We know you want to spoil these babies. Honestly, after everything they've been through, we get it. But before you start sharing your snacks, there are some common human foods that can seriously harm dogs – some of them can even be fatal. This isn't meant to scare you, just to keep your foster safe while they're in your care.

When in doubt, don't feed it. And if you think your foster got into something they shouldn't have, contact us and/or call **animal poison control at (888) 426-4435** right away.

🚫 Alcohol and Raw Bread Dough

This one seems obvious but it's worth saying – no alcohol, ever. It causes vomiting, tremors, breathing trouble, and can be fatal even in small amounts. Raw bread dough is also a serious danger because yeast ferments in a dog's stomach, producing alcohol and causing dangerous bloating. If the stomach twists, it becomes a life-threatening emergency fast.

🚫 Chocolate, Coffee, and Caffeine

All three contain compounds that are toxic to dogs and can cause vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, abnormal heart rhythm, seizures, and death. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous – baking chocolate and cocoa powder are the worst offenders. Keep all of it out of reach.

🚫 Grapes and Raisins

This is a big one that a lot of people don't know about. Grapes and raisins can cause sudden kidney failure in dogs. There's no safe amount. Even a small handful can be deadly. No grapes, no raisins, no trail mix with raisins – none of it.

🚫 Onions, Garlic, and Chives

These damage red blood cells and can lead to anemia. This includes cooked, raw, and powdered forms – so be careful with table scraps that may have been seasoned. It can build up over time, so even small regular exposures add up.

🚫 Xylitol

Xylitol is an artificial sweetener found in sugar-free gum, candy, some peanut butters, baked goods, and toothpaste. It causes a dangerous drop in blood sugar and can lead to liver failure. Always check the ingredients on peanut butter before giving it to your foster – some brands use xylitol and it can be deadly.

🚫 Macadamia Nuts and Most Nuts in General

Macadamia nuts in particular cause weakness, tremors, vomiting, and fever in dogs. Other nuts like almonds, pecans, and walnuts are high in fat and can trigger vomiting, diarrhea, and even pancreatitis. Skip the nuts altogether.

🚫 Raw Meat, Raw Eggs, and Bones

We know street dogs have eaten all kinds of things to survive – but that doesn't mean it's safe. Raw meat and eggs can carry Salmonella and E. coli. Raw eggs also interfere with vitamin absorption and can cause skin and coat problems over time. And bones – even though it feels natural – can splinter and cause serious injuries or blockages that may require surgery. Stick to cooked, boneless chicken or quality dog food instead.

🚫 Salty and Excessively Fatty Foods

Too much salt can cause excessive thirst, vomiting, tremors, and in serious cases, seizures or death. Fatty foods – like greasy table scraps – can cause stomach upset and pancreatitis, which is painful and serious. These dogs have already been through enough without a preventable health crisis on top of it.

🚫 Milk and Dairy

Most dogs don't process lactose well. A little cheese here and there usually isn't the end of the world, but larger amounts of milk or dairy can cause diarrhea and stomach upset – which is the last thing you want when you're already managing a street dog's sensitive system.

🚫 Avocado and Citrus

Avocado can be harmful to some animals and should be avoided. Citrus peels, stems, and seeds contain compounds that can cause stomach irritation – the occasional small piece of orange isn't likely to cause harm, but keep citrus plants and peels out of reach.

✓ When In Doubt, Ask Us

Our fosters are already dealing with a lot – sensitive stomachs, past malnutrition, immune systems that are still catching up. If you're ever unsure whether something is safe to give your foster dog, just ask. We'd rather answer a hundred "is this okay?" texts than deal with an emergency.

Poison Control: (888) 426-4435 – save it in your phone now, just in case.

– *The Jack Jack's Pack Team*