



HUMAN FOODS THAT POISON DOGS

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Dog owners often allow their pets to eat human foods or actually give their dogs human foods as special treats. Dogs are quite capable of eating large amounts of foods that can be toxic to them.

Chocolate



Many owners are aware that chocolate can harm a dog. Early signs of toxicity may include restlessness, incontinence, vomiting and tachycardia. Late signs may include bloody emesis, muscular rigidity and seizures. Death may occur in 18 to 24 hours. Death may also be delayed for several days, then occur suddenly from cardiac or respiratory failure. Cocoa powder and cooking chocolate are the most toxic. Semi-sweet chocolate and dark chocolate are the next most dangerous, while milk chocolate is the least dangerous.

Grapes

Grapes and raisins can cause acute renal failure in dogs. Toxic symptoms may include vomiting (usually within 24 hours), anorexia, diarrhea, lethargy, dysuria and abdominal pain. Duration may be days to weeks. Ataxia and weakness indicate a poor prognosis. Approximately half of the dogs that become ill do not survive.



Onions and Garlic

Onions are more toxic to dogs than garlic. Both contain thiosulfate and can cause hemolytic anemia. Early symptoms are vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia and weakness. Breathlessness develops. Symptoms may occur a few days after eating onions.

Macadamia Nuts

Dogs can develop muscle tremors and weakness or paralysis of the hindquarters. They may be unable to rise and are distressed. Limbs may be swollen and painful. Vomiting and dyspnea can also occur.

Other Foods

The kernels of plums, peaches and apricots can cause cyanide poisoning. Large amounts of broccoli, coffee grounds and beans, tomato leaves and stems, potato peelings, rhubarb leaves, alcohol and yeast dough can also cause toxicities.

Dog owners must not assume that their favorite foods are safe for their pets.



DID YOU KNOW? The West Texas Regional Poison Center will refer animal cases to a veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435, which is a fee-based service.