

MY DOG EATS PEOPLE FOOD

THE NOT SO GOOD SIDE OF FEEDING YOUR DOG 'PEOPLE' FOOD

It's human nature to want to share all good things with your dog, however there are some human or people foods that should not be shared with your dog.

Here's a list of the foods and substances to avoid feeding your dog. And if you think it's okay to feed your dog the leftover pizza laden with onions and mushrooms, think again.

ALCOHOL

Many a dog has turned up in a veterinary surgery due to consumption of alcohol—sadly this can be because people have been careless or thought it might be a bit fun to get the family dog 'drunk'. A 'drunk' dog will exhibit the same signs as a drunk human—bit wobbly on their feet. Alcohol consumption can lead to cardiac arrest or coma depending on the amount consumed.

AVOCADO

Avocado ingestion can result in fluid accumulation in the chest, in the lungs and around the heart causing breathing difficulties that can lead to death due to oxygen deprivation. Avocado contains Persin which is a fungicidal toxin found in the fruit and seed of Avocados.



CAT FOOD

Small amounts of cat food won't result in a trip to the vet but it usually contains higher levels of fat and protein than dog food. If consumed in large amounts, the pancreas is overworked and this can Pancreatitis.

CAFFEINE

Caffeine found in coffee, soft drinks and even in tea and chocolate can cause the same symptoms as over consumption in humans—heart palpitations, abnormal heartbeats and damage to the central nervous system. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, arrhythmia, seizures and fever.



DAIRY PRODUCTS

Dogs, just like some humans are lactose intolerant. They do not have the sufficient amount of the enzyme lactase necessary to break down and digest milk, yoghurt, cheese, butter and other dairy products. Dairy product ingestion causes bloating and diarrhea.



EXCESSIVELY FATTY FOODS, FAT TRIMMINGS

Foods that are high in fat can contribute to pancreatitis. Pancreatitis is the inflammation of the Pancreas— an organ that produces an enzyme that aids in the digestion of food. When the pancreas is inflamed, the enzyme inside the pancreas is prematurely activated thereby digesting the pancreas. Pancreatitis is most common in obese dogs and in dogs that are fed excessively fatty foods. Diarrhea, vomiting and acute abdominal pain are the symptoms of pancreatitis. High fat foods to avoid include fat trimmings, poultry skin, bacon and paté.

GRAPES, RAISINS

Consumption of grapes and raisins can lead to renal failure with anuria (a lack of urine production). The reason some dogs develop renal failure following ingestion of grapes and raisins is not known. Types of grapes involved include both seedless and seeded, store bought and homegrown, and grape pressings from wineries. Lethargy, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea are all signs of this toxin. Anuric renal failure is serious because dogs that cannot pass urine develop a build-up of toxins that are not excreted as they would be normally.



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GREEN PART OF TOMATOES, GREEN POTATOES, RHUBARB

Oxalate that is found in green tomatoes, green potatoes and in rhubarb is a harmful toxin that causes kidney, digestive system and nervous system abnormalities.

HOPS

Hops, a plant used in making beer have an unknown compound that has dangerous effects on dogs one of which is malignant hyperthermia. The dog's body uncontrollably overheats. Ingestion of hops would cause panting, rapid heartbeats, seizures and could result in death.

HUMAN VITAMINS

Might seem like a good idea to dose yourself and your dog up with human vitamins, however the doses of vitamins for humans and dogs are different. Vitamins with iron are known to be especially dangerous as large doses of iron can damage the lining of the digestive system. Liver and kidney problems can result with prolonged use.

LIVER (LARGE AMOUNTS)

Liver in small doses - like liver treats is actually good for dogs as it is a nutrient dense food. Calf's liver is especially good as it doesn't have a build-up of toxins like beef (or the liver from older cows) does. But large amounts of liver can result in a vitamin A toxicity where muscles and bones of the dog can be affected. The signs range from lethargy, weight loss and constipation. Stiffness in limbs and sensitivity of the neck and forelimbs is also a sign that your dog is affected.

MACADAMIA NUTS

As few as six mac nuts can cause toxicity to dogs. Signs include weakness and the inability to stand. Also the high phosphorous content of the nut can result to bladder stones.

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NO MORE THAN 10% OF A DOG'S DAILY CALORIES SHOULD COME FROM DOG TREATS AND SNACKS. IF YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR DOG'S WEIGHT, SAVE SOME OF HIS DRIED FOOD FROM NORMAL MEALS AND USE THIS AS TRAINING TREATS.

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MOLDY OR SPOILED FOOD

While you may never feed your dog spoiled or moldy food, dogs can expertly sniff out stinky trash. Diarrhea, vomiting and stomach upset are the most noticeable symptoms.

FRUIT PITS AND SEEDS

Cyanogenic Glycosides are found in the pits and seeds of some fruit. Cyanide poisoning can result and pits can also cause obstruction to the digestive tract. Most fruit is beneficial to dogs but the seeds and pits should never be fed.



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MUSHROOM

Most varieties of mushroom can contain toxins that severely affect the central nervous system, kidneys and digestive system in dogs. Seizure, vomiting and excessive drooling can occur.

ONIONS AND GARLIC

Small amounts of garlic found in some commercial dog treats can be beneficial, however large amounts can cause serious health issues. An enzyme called Thiosulfate found in onions and garlic is what makes these foods toxic to dogs. The enzyme in humans that digests these foods is not present in dogs. Regular ingestion of onion and garlic will weaken the red blood cells causing severe anemia called hemolytic anemia that can result to the death of the pet.



SUGARY FOODS

Dogs that are regularly given sugary foods can become obese. The dog may have joint and dental problems. Feeding your dog sugary food can lead to diabetes.

TABLE SCRAPS (LARGE AMOUNTS)

Table scraps are not a nutritionally balanced diet for your dog and should not constitute its main diet. If table scraps are given you should ensure that there are no cooked bones and any fat is trimmed from the meat.

TOBACCO

Within 15 to 45 minutes the results of tobacco ingestion would be noticed through symptoms such as being excessively excited and salivation. Ingestion can result in rapid heartbeats, coma and even death.

XYLITOL, SUGAR FREE FOODS

Ingestion of large amounts of sugar free foods or products artificially sweetened by xylitol can cause sudden drop in blood sugar of the dog. Depression, loss of coordination and seizures can develop less than 30 minutes after the product is ingested. Emergency treatment is necessary otherwise the dog can die.

YEAST DOUGH

Yeast dough when ingested by the dog will expand in the stomach, as yeast tends to expand in moist and warm environment. The expansion will distend the abdomen cause severe pain and bloating. It can even rupture the stomach and the intestines. As the dough rises it is fermented by the yeast producing alcohol and resulting to alcohol toxicity. So ignore those pleading puppy eyes and think twice before scraping your food into their bowl.

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