

FOODS *that are* DANGEROUS *for dogs*



Xylitol

Xylitol is a common food additive categorized as a sugar alcohol, and most commonly used as a low-calorie artificial sweetener in **peanut butter**, gum, candy, toothpaste, and other sweets. While xylitol has no known toxicity to humans, it can cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and liver failure in dogs as a result of its effects on insulin regulation. **Initial signs of exposure include vomiting, loss of coordination, and fatigue.**



Chocolate

Chocolate contains a compound known as theobromine. Theobromine is a member of the methylxanthine family, which includes other stimulants like caffeine. When ingested, chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhea, high blood pressure, panting, seizures, and in some cases, death. **Dark chocolate** (like baker's chocolate) contains the most theobromine, making it **more dangerous** than milk chocolate.



Grapes/Raisins

Grapes and raisins are considered highly toxic to dogs. Even very small amounts can lead to severe negative reactions. In the worst cases, consuming grapes or raisins results in sudden kidney failure for dogs. Until the mechanisms behind their toxicity are better understood, it is extremely important to keep grapes and raisins away from your pets.



Alcohol

The same effects that alcohol have on people apply to dogs, but the results are amplified due to their smaller size. Alcoholic beverages and foods containing alcohol can cause central nervous system depression, inhibited motor function, vomiting, coma, and death. **Pets should never be given alcohol of any kind.**



Nuts

Nuts (especially **macadamia** nuts) generally contain high concentrations of oils and fats. When consumed in large quantities, these fats can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and sometimes pancreatitis in dogs. Additionally, macadamia nuts have their own unique, negative effects on dogs. When ingested, they can cause weakness, hyperthermia, vomiting, tremors, and other bad symptoms.



Candy

Many brands of gum and candy contain **xylitol**, which as discussed above, can be **fatal to dogs**. However, even gum and candies not containing xylitol still pose a risk to canines. When ingested, gum and chewy candies can lead to choking or blockages in the digestive tract. Additionally, hard candies are a common culprit for tooth fractures in dogs.



Caffeine

Similar to chocolate, **products containing caffeine are also harmful for dogs** due to their effects as stimulants. Like theobromine, caffeine can also cause rapid heartbeat, vomiting, diarrhea, hypertension, seizures, and even death. This applies to whole coffee beans, brewed coffee, tea leaves, and also coffee grounds.