The Essential List Of Foods Dogs Cannot Eat

Mild Danger

• **Avocado.** The problems with avocado are twofold. Firstly, avocado contains a compound called persin, which is toxic to many animals, including rabbits, birds, horses, cats, and dogs. Avocado rarely causes serious illness in animals like dogs, but can cause mild stomach upset. More dangerous is the pit; if your dog eats the pit of the avocado, it may obstruct the GI tract. This situation can require urgent care from a vet. Though avocado is sometimes included in dog food as an ingredient, it is best to avoid it.

• **Sugar.** In the short term, sugar is unlikely to cause serious problems for your dog, but it is still something to avoid. Over time, lots of sugar can cause problems for your dog, just as it can cause problems for you. These include dental issues, diabetes, and obesity.

Moderate Danger

• **Macadamia nuts.** These nuts are toxic to dogs, and while unlikely to cause death, they can make your pet very sick for around 48 hours. Dogs that eat these nuts typically develop a fever, tremors, and weakness in the rear legs. This may warrant a trip to the vet.

• **Dairy products.** Milk and other dairy products can cause an upset stomach as well as diarrhea for a dog.

• **Cooked fish.** In small amounts, this may not be a serious problem, but in large amounts, it can lead to seizures. Fish is high in thiamine, and too much thiamine is bad for dogs (in some cases, it may even lead to death).

• **Marijuana.** Keep your dog away from pot; it can cause vomiting and depress the nervous system, also reducing heart rate.
• **Rhubarb.** Rhubarb can cause a mild to moderate reaction, including vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, tremors, and blood in the urine. Do not share your rhubarb pie with your dog.

**Potentially Fatal**

• **Raw bread dough** (or anything else with live yeast). Yeast multiply in a dog’s stomach, causing dough to expand. This can damage the stomach or obstruct breathing, and may result in coma, seizures, or even death.

• **Chocolate.** The effect of chocolate on a dog can range widely, and may cause anything from mild restlessness and stomach upset to seizures and death. White chocolate is the least harmful, while dark chocolate, which is high in chemicals called “methylxanthines,” is the worst. Because chocolate is potentially fatal, you should never give a dog chocolate.

• **Ethanol.** Dogs are far more susceptible to the effects of grain alcohol than humans are, and become inebriated far more quickly. In small amounts, alcoholic intoxication may cause typical signs of drunkenness, including loss of coordination and vomiting. In higher quantities, coma, seizures, and death may all occur. Keep alcohol far away from dogs. An amount which would be safe for a human might kill a canine.

• **Raisins, currants, and grapes.** For unknown reasons, some dogs can eat these without any ill effects, while others may experience kidney failure and die. Usually a toxic reaction occurs within 12 hours of ingestion, and kidney failure occurs within 3-4 days without vet treatment. Dogs that survive may have long-term kidney disease. Don’t take any chances with these fruits.

• **Hops.** Beer hops can poison dogs in both their fresh and cooked form. A dog that has eaten hops will develop a high fever and may die if not seen promptly by a veterinarian.

• **Mold.** Just as moldy food isn’t good for you, it isn’t good for your dog either. Dogs that eat moldy food can become ill and in some cases, die. If your dog has eaten moldy food or exhibits ongoing tremors, you should take him to the vet. Most dogs respond well to treatment. Left untreated, though, this kind of poisoning can be lethal.

• **Onions, garlic, and related foods.** Foods in this group should be kept away from your dog. The stronger the garlic or onions, the worse the toxic effect. Symptoms usually manifest 3-5 days after a dog consumes the onion or garlic. Your dog may appear weak or tired and have orange or red urine. It is important to take a dog to the vet right away if he shows these symptoms. Sometimes a blood transfusion is required.
• **Xylitol.** This is an artificial sweetener which is sometimes added to foods. It causes huge drops in blood glucose levels in dogs. Within half an hour to several hours of eating a food that contains xylitol, a dog can become disoriented or suffer from seizures. This can lead to liver failure, so a visit to the vet is a must.

• **Caffeine.** While caffeine may only give you the jitters, it is really bad for your dog. A dog that has been poisoned by caffeine may display tremors, restlessness, and rapid breathing, and may even bleed. This can be fatal, so take your dog to a vet.

• **Extra fat and bones from meat.** While you may feel tempted to throw the scraps from your meal to your dog, don’t do it. The fat (whether cooked or uncooked) can cause pancreatitis, and your dog may choke on one of the bones. If the bone is small enough, it may be swallowed, but it could damage the digestive tract.

• **Peaches, plums, and persimmons.** All of these fruit contain seeds and pits which can be dangerous to dogs. The persimmon seeds can lead to inflammation, and the plum and peach pits can cause obstruction in the bowels. On top of that, plum and peach pits contain cyanide.

• **Raw egg.** This is another one you know that you should never eat. Raw eggs can have dangerous bacteria like salmonella. This is one of the reasons your dog should never eat them either. But dogs also cannot eat these because they contain a certain B vitamin which can cause skin problems.

• **Raw meat, particularly fish.** Raw meats can cause food poisoning for both humans and canines. Raw fish in particular can cause what is called “salmon poisoning disease” or “fish disease,” which can kill a dog inside of two weeks. Symptoms in include fever, enlarged lymph nodes, and vomiting.

• **Salt.** Too much salt can cause problems like excessive thirst and sodium ion poisoning. A dog that has had too much salt may vomit, have diarrhea, or exhibit tumors, fever, depression, or seizures. This is potentially fatal.

• **Medicines you take.** Medicine you take can be lethal to your pet. So can your multivitamins or iron supplements.

• **Baking powder and baking soda.** Both of these common cooking ingredients are very toxic to your dog.
• **Nutmeg.** This seemingly innocuous spice which you cook with or add to your eggnog can cause seizures or even death for a canine.

• **Cat food.** If you have a feline living in your house as well, make sure your canine doesn’t get a hold of the cat food. It contains too many proteins and fats for your dog. While a meal or two won’t harm them, eating cat food consistently can have long term health effects on your dog.

• **Mushrooms.** Mushrooms can contain toxins which can cause pervasive problems for your dog, resulting in shock or even death.

• **Tobacco (or any product with nicotine).** Nicotine can cause rapid heart rate, collapse, coma, or even death.

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