

## Common foods that you did not know are dangerous to your pet!



### Bones:

Bones of any sort are an absolute no-no! They break teeth, cause serious obstructions or constipation, and can also result in bloody diarrhoea. They can cause dogs to choke, and they can get stuck in the oesophagus, potentially tearing it open, and can even penetrate

the gut wall into other organs.



### Caffeine:

Coffee, tea, energy drinks and diet pills all contain caffeine and can lead to nervousness, twitchiness, increased blood pressure and urination and can cause lethal overstimulation of the body.

### Chocolate:

Chocolate contains Methylxanthines – this is a stimulant, similar to caffeine. The darker and richer the chocolate, the greater the risk of toxicity. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning will be severe vomiting and diarrhoea, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythms, tremors and seizures.



### Fatty food:

Fatty foods affect the pancreas of pets, and can lead to a painful and dangerous condition called pancreatitis. Pets become extremely ill, vomit profusely and some may even die. So, please refrain from sharing left over greasy junk food, fatty pan drippings and fatty biltong bits with your pet.



### Fruit toxins:

Any fruit with relatively large pips like peaches, plums or avocados can lead to intestinal obstruction.

Grapes and raisins can cause acute kidney failure. Unfortunately, the toxic substance has not been isolated, and the toxic dose appears to

differ between individuals, so it is safer to avoid them completely.

### Mushrooms:



Wild mushrooms growing in your garden can cause vomiting, seizures, coma and even death if your pet eats them.



### **Garlic and onion:**

Onions and garlic contain a substance that damages the walls of red blood cells, causing them to burst. This leads to a condition called anaemia which is seen as very pale gums.

Garlic is 5 times more potent than onion. Since signs do take a while to develop, it is better to be pro-active and avoid them completely.

### **Nuts:**

Macadamia nuts are toxic to dogs and cats, and any mouldy nuts are also to be avoided.

Nuts in the shell can also cause intestinal obstructions if swallowed whole.



### **Salt:**

In small quantities it adds some spice to our lives, but in larger quantities it is a life threatening toxin. The most common source of salt in pet toxicities is ingestion of kiddies play dough. Intensive treatment is needed to save a dog with salt toxicosis.

### **Xylitol:**

Xylitol is an artificial sweetener present in mouth washes, sugar-free chewing gum, diabetic products, some sweets and sugar replacers. It is extremely toxic to pets and causes severely low blood sugar levels, which leads to seizures, coma and death. In some cases it causes liver damage so bad that the liver fails. The toxic dose differs from one pet to another.



### **Yeast dough:**

Do not let your yeast dough rise outside where your dog can reach it. The fermentation of the dough in the stomach can lead to bloat and stomach twists. It is also fermented into alcohol and can lead to alcohol poisoning in your pet.