



Top 10 Foods to Avoid for Dogs



1. Chocolate

Chocolate contains a substance called theobromine that cannot be digested by dogs and can cause kidney failure. The darker the chocolate the more toxic. Signs of toxicity can include vomiting, diarrhea, panting, tremors, seizures and even death in large enough quantities.



2. Xylitol

Xylitol is an artificial sweetener found in a variety of foods and cosmetic products such as toothpaste, gum, drinks, baked goods, and sweets. Check your peanut butter labels to ensure it's xylitol-free before giving a spoonful to your dog. Small amounts of xylitol can cause low blood sugar, seizures and liver failure.



3. Garlic, Onion and Chives

There is a compound found in these foods called N-propyl disulfide. This compound can damage red blood cells and cause anemia. Signs may not be apparent for several days after ingestion and can include weakness, vomiting and breathing difficulty.



4. Grapes, Raisins and Currants

These fruits contain a substance called tartaric acid. At high enough concentrations it can cause severe liver damage and in many cases induce kidney failure. Signs include excessive vomiting and sluggishness.



5. Macademia Nuts

Macademia nuts contain a toxin that affects your dog's muscles and nervous system causing weakness, swollen limbs and panting.



6. Avocado Skin, Leaves and Pits

Contrary to popular belief, avocado flesh is quite safe for companion animals. However, the skin, leaves and pit contain a substance called persin which can disrupt the digestive tract.



7. Alcohol and Hops

Incredibly small amounts of alcohol can be dangerous to dogs, impacting their liver and brain. It can cause issues ranging from vomiting, diarrhea, coordination problems, breathing difficulty, coma, and even death.



8. Caffeine

Caffeine in the form of coffee, soda, energy drinks, tea, sweets, and over-the-counter drug products contain harmful substances called methylxanthines. When ingested they can cause vomiting, diarrhea, abnormal heart rhythms, tremors, seizures, and even death.



9. Salt and Sugar Products

Large amounts of salt and sugar can actually be dangerous to our furry friends. Salt overload can lead to sodium ion poisoning. Symptoms include excessive thirst, vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, fever, and seizures. Be mindful and avoid sharing your salty and sweet snacks.



10. Mushrooms

While only a few mushroom species are known to be toxic for dogs, the toxic varieties are often fatal. Because identifying mushrooms is difficult, exercise caution and avoid mushrooms completely, as even one bite of a toxic mushroom could be deadly.