

# TOXIC FOODS AND DRUGS THAT YOUR PET SHOULD NOT GET

- GRAPES, RAISINS, AND CURRANTS:
  - These fruits can cause acute renal (kidney) failure in your pet dog, cat, or ferret.
  - This includes cooked and raw products
  - Toxicity signs include vomiting within a few hours of ingestion, followed by increased thirst, lethargy, and even death if not treated.
  - Don't forget these fruits might be in candy, cookies, cakes, and cereal.
- CAFFEINE
  - Pets are more sensitive to caffeine than humans and eating coffee grounds, tea bags, diet pills, and drinking caffeinated soda can produce toxicity.
  - Toxicity signs include hyperactivity, restlessness, vomiting, rapid heartbeat, high blood pressure, seizure, collapse, and occasionally death.
  - Small amounts of caffeine usually do not produce signs, but large quantities or frequent ingestion can cause severe problems and chronic disease.
- CHOCOLATE
  - Theobromine is the toxic ingredient in chocolate and is a first cousin to caffeine. The darker the chocolate the more Theobromine content exists per ounce of material.
  - Chocolate intoxication is dose related, so the amount of product and nature of the chocolate determines the toxic signs. In general from 0.5 to 0.13 ounces/lb of body weight will produce toxicity.
  - Toxicity signs are vomiting, agitation, rapid heart rate, seizure, and collapse. The fat level in chocolate can also produce pancreatitis, peritonitis, severe problems, and death.
- XYLITOL
  - Xylitol is a common sugar substitute found in gum, breath mints, toothpaste, candies, and baked goods. Xylitol fools the dog's body into producing a sudden and profound drop in blood sugar. Ingestion can lead to liver damage as well.
  - Xylitol is not toxic to humans or cats.
  - Toxicity signs are those of low blood sugar (weakness, disorientation, seizure, and collapse).
- ONIONS, GARLIC, CHIVES, AND LEEKS (LILLIUM FAMILY OF PLANTS)

- Ingestion of large amounts of these products cause destruction of red blood cells and dangerous or fatal anemia.
- Toxicity signs are weakness, elevated respiratory rate, vomiting, decreased appetite, collapse, and or death.
- Animals like garlic and onion flavor, and in very small spice amounts enhance the flavor of many foods and animals food products. However, administration large quantities such as garlic capsules for flea control, which does not work, herbal treatments, for feeding large quantities of cooked or raw onions, garlic, or leeks can kill your pet.
- YEAST BREAD DOUGH
  - Raw yeast dough can continue to rise and produce gas in a pet's stomach resulting in bloating or obstruction of the bowel. This can lead to twisting of the stomach and a life threatening event that requires emergency surgery.
  - Toxicity signs are bloating & swelling of the abdomen, non-productive vomiting, collapse, shock, and death.
  - If ingestion of dough and or these signs present, immediate emergency veterinary care should be sought.
- ALCOHOL
  - Alcoholic beverages are obvious sources of this toxic substance, but other less obvious products containing significant alcohol are deserts or candies containing alcoholic products and the byproducts of yeast-bread dough. Also, some liquid medications such as cough medications and others can contain alcohol as a solvent.
  - Toxicity signs are smell of alcohol on the breath, depression, disorientation, low body temperature (below 100 degrees F), seizure, and respiratory failure.
  - Alcohol is also a dose related toxin and the amount ingested, concentration of the alcohol, and the size of the pet all determine the toxicity of the ingestion.
- FATTY FOODS
  - Butter, oils, fatty meat or drippings, grease, chocolate, and meat scraps can all serve as a source of fat that can produce pancreatitis, digestive upset, diarrhea, and life threatening peritonitis.
  - Toxicity signs are vomiting, abnormal pain, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, reduced appetite, depression, and lethargy.
- NSAID DRUGS
  - NSAID drugs are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as Tylenol, Advil, Aspirin, Motrin, and others.

- NSAID drugs that are commonly used in human medicine are dangerous and life threatening in dogs and cats, and should NEVER BE USED.
- Very specific NSAID drugs are available for safe and effective use in pets within their safe dosage guidelines. ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING ANY OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG OR ANY DRUG NOT SPECIFICALLY PRESCRIBED FOR THAT PARTICULAR PET BY A VETERINARIAN.
- Toxicity Signs are depression, GI upset and diarrhea, bleeding, liver and kidney damage, lethargy, and death. One human dose of Tylenol can kill small to medium size dog within a few days.

## **SOME SAFE “PEOPLE FOODS”**

### **FOR YOU PET**

Some people foods can offer safe and low-calorie nutrition for your pet

- Apples
- Peas
- Green Beans
- Unsalted and Unbuttered Popcorn
- Carrots
- Sweet Potatoes
- Zucchini
- Squash
- Lettuce
- Blueberries
- Pumpkin
- Chicken or Beef Broth (low sodium)