

Watch Out for Fido: Poison Protection

Just what can our joyful, exploring pets eat that might harm them? It seems that in most cases, you don't have to worry. Pets seem to understand what is safe to eat and what isn't. Mine will not touch an onion – cooked or not. They love hibiscus flowers from the single petal types but won't nibble on the fancy ones or the Rose of Sharon variety. They will, however, eat chocolate if it's left within reach. So the best advice is to be watchful at all times.

Here's some advice from a variety of veterinarian websites devoted to poison protection....

No garlic or onion — In severe cases, it could even kill your pet. Toxicity can occur whether the products are fresh, cooked or in a dried/powdered form such as in spices. The Allium species of plants is where the toxicity lies. These plants include garlic, onions, leeks, scallions, chives and shallots. If your pet eats one of these products, red blood cells can be damaged, resulting in the cells not being able to carry oxygen. Ingestion can also cause anemia (low red blood cell count) and, in severe cases, the anemia may lead to internal organ damage, organ failure or even death. Cats are more susceptible to onion/garlic toxicity than dogs.

No Alcohol — Pets can often get into alcohol through uncommon sources, like unbaked dough or rum-soaked desserts. Alcohol will give your dog or cat low blood sugar and low body temperature. It can end in coma or seizures.

Guacamole is a No-No — Dogs and cats can have poisonous reactions to avocados, but they are most toxic for birds.

Out with the Morning Cup of Coffee! — Pets will react to caffeine with vomiting, diarrhea, increased thirst, restlessness and increased heart rate. Caffeine is a toxic stimulant to cats and dogs.

Not Even Dark Chocolate — Most pet owners recognize that chocolate is very toxic for their dogs or cats. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it can be, because it has more caffeine and theobromine.

Grapes and Raisins — Both grapes and raisins can cause acute kidneys failure in dogs and some cats. Owners should keep these out of reach in every form, including raisin bagels or grape juice.

Sugar-Free Foods (Xylitol) — The natural sugar substitute Xylitol can be very dangerous for dogs. It will cause a drop in blood sugar and potential liver damage.



Plants Not So Beautiful If Eaten — The beauty of the flowering Amaryllis is matched by its toxicity. The Amaryllis contains Lycorine and other noxious substances, which cause salivation, gastrointestinal abnormalities (vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite, and abdominal pain), lethargy, and tremors in both cats and dogs. The bulb of the plant is reputed to be even more dangerous than the flowers and stalk.

A little good news about Poinsettias —A lot of people have been led to believe that the poinsettia plant is deadly for pets and children, but this is actually an unlikely occurrence. The poinsettia plant's brightly colored leaves contain a sap that is irritating to the tissues of the mouth and esophagus. If the leaves are ingested, they will often cause nausea and vomiting, but it would take a large amount of the plant's material to

ALCOHOL



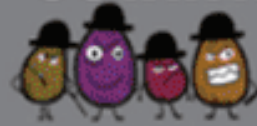
COMA
DEATH
INTOXICATION

AVOCADO



CONTAINS PERSIN:
VOMITING
DIARRHEA

RAISINS CURRANTS



KIDNEY
FAILURE

COOKED BONES



STOMACH
LACERATIONS

WALNUTS MACADAMIAS



NERVOUS SYSTEM
AND MUSCLE
DAMAGE

ONIONS GARLIC



BLOOD CELL
DAMAGE
ANEMIA

DAIRY



TOO MUCH:
DIARRHEA

the world's
MOST
DANGEROUS
FOODS

FOR DOGS

GRAPES



KIDNEY FAILURE

MUSHROOMS



SOME VARIETIES:
SHOCK
DEATH

FATTY FOODS



TOO MUCH:
PANCREATITIS

CAFFEINE



VOMITING
DIARRHEA

TOXIC TO HEART & NERVOUS SYSTEM

XYLITOL



(GUM, CANDY ETC.)
LIVER FAILURE
HYPOGLYCEMIA
DEATH

CHOCOLATE



TOXIC TO HEART
& NERVOUS
SYSTEM
DEATH

MEDICATIONS



(TYLENOL, ADVIL ETC.)

KIDNEY
FAILURE
GI ULCERS

If you think your dog ate something dangerous,
CALL YOUR VET or:

ASPCA POISON CONTROL HOTLINE (888) 426-4435

NATIONAL PET POISON HELPLINE (800) 213-6680

Illustration by LILI CHIN | layout by DESIGN LAB CREATIVE STUDIO

cause poisoning, and most animals and children will not eat such a large enough amount because of the irritating taste and feel from the sap.

So-So News About Hibiscus —Some types of hibiscus are toxic to dogs while others are not. The Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) is toxic to dogs. As for other hibiscus, many dogs really enjoy eating the blooms and few have problems. Poisoning occurs when your dog eats a large amount of hibiscus flowers at once; so a few bits over time usually causes no harm.