

Poisonous Foods

If any of the things listed below have been consumed by your pet please contact your vet as soon as possible.



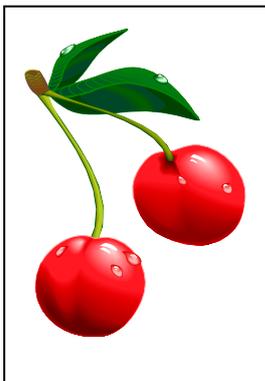
Grapes/raisins/sultanas – all of these are toxic and can cause acute kidney failure therefore it is highly recommended that your pet sees a vet as soon as possible if it has eaten these. The toxic dose or compound is not yet known.



Chocolate and cocoa – the toxic agent is theobromine which can affect the heart, lungs, kidneys and nervous system. There are higher levels in dark chocolate versus milk chocolate and in milk chocolate versus white chocolate. Signs usually occur within 4-24 hours and can last up to 72 hours. Signs include vomiting, increased thirst, restlessness, excitability, salivation and abdominal discomfort. High doses can be fatal. It is advised that you contact your vet straight away if your pet has eaten chocolate.



Onions/garlic/chives – these can cause a type of anaemia where the red blood cells are destroyed. Kidney damage can result. The toxic amount has not been determined but it is thought that the effect can build up over time if these are eaten repeatedly. Remember some gravy cubes can contain high quantities of onion powder which can also be toxic. Signs include pale gums, rapid heart rate and weakness. Treatment is essential as soon as possible.



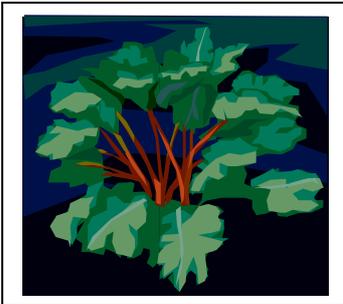
Fruit stones/seeds – e.g. apple seeds, cherry stones, peach stones, and plum stones. These all contain the toxin cyanide and can cause vomiting, high heart rate, problems breathing and collapse. If this is suspected bring your pet in straight away.



Avocado – the leaves, fruit, seeds and bark of the avocado plant contain a toxin called persin which can cause vomiting and diarrhoea. Also the fruit is high in fat which is not healthy for your pet.



Macadamia nuts – the toxin is unknown but even a small amount can cause toxicity. Signs include vomiting, weakness, wobbliness, and joint or muscle pain. Signs usually develop within 6-24 hours and usually last 24-48 hours.



Rhubarb leaves and green potatoes - contain oxalates which can cause problems with your pets' gastrointestinal or urinary tracts.



Bread dough/alcohol – uncooked dough and alcohol can both cause ethanol toxicity. Signs include sedation, lethargy, staggering and hypothermia. Treatment is recommended even if only a small amount has been consumed.



Tea/Coffee/some soft drinks – contain caffeine which can be toxic. Caffeine is quite similar to the toxic chemical in chocolate. It can damage the heart, lungs, kidney and central nervous system. Signs include restlessness, excitability and vomiting. These can be followed by panting, weakness, drunken gait, increased heart rate, muscle tremors and convulsions.



Sugar-free foods (e.g. chewing gum) – contains Xylitol which can cause liver damage and also low blood sugar as it can stimulate the pancreas to secrete insulin. Signs of toxicity can occur within 30-60 minutes and include weakness, drunken gait, collapse and seizures.



Nutmeg – this can cause problems with the nervous system including tremors or even seizures.

Mouldy or rotten foods – these can cause many problems for your pet, which can vary from mild gastrointestinal upset to more serious conditions. The worst of these include:

- Botulism is caused by bacteria which are often found in rotten food which produces a toxin which can cause paralysis, slow heart rate, constipation, and urine retention. An antitoxin is effective only if poisoning is caught early enough.
- Rotten fruit produces ethanol, causing the same effects associated with alcohol or dough ingestion (see earlier).

Other foods to avoid: Certain foods, while not considered toxic, can still be unhealthy for your pet. Avoid any foods that are high in fat, sugar or sodium. These foods can contribute to indigestion, obesity, dehydration, electrolyte imbalance and so on. Cooked bones can splinter and cause gut irritation or even perforation.