



Dogs and Chocolates

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Do you know how dangerous it is for your dog to eat chocolate? When it comes to being a pet parent, mishaps may still occur even with the utmost care and attention. Despite their best efforts, many responsible pet owners are unable to always keep a watch on their pets. A dog may consume a chocolate cookie or a chunk of candy in a matter of seconds.

While chocolate is a delectable treat for humans, dogs should avoid it. Dogs are often affected by chocolate poisoning, which is usually the result of unintentional consumption. Dogs may be poisoned by chocolate. However, the severity of the poisoning is dependent on the kind of chocolate consumed, the amount consumed, and the size of the dog. The consequences of a dog eating chocolate and what you should do will be addressed here.

Chocolate includes theobromine and, to a lesser amount, caffeine, which is poisonous to dogs. Humans quickly metabolize theobromine but not by dogs. Theobromine and caffeine (methylxanthines) are metabolized slowly by dogs, allowing toxic chemicals to accumulate in their systems and create clinical indications of chocolate poisoning. It's not like all chocolates have the equal potential of causing toxicity. What happens when a dog consumes chocolate varies depending on the chocolate eaten. For example, baker's chocolate and cocoa are the most poisonous where as white chocolate is least poisonous.

Regardless of the methylxanthine concentration, many chocolate products are heavy in fat and may cause pancreatitis in dogs.

Chocolate poisoning symptoms might appear rapidly (within one to three hours) or take many hours to appear. They may last around a few minutes to many days. Depending on the seriousness

Types of Chocolates	Theobromine Content
Cacao beans	500-1500 mg per ounce
Cocoa powder	450-700 mg per ounce
Baker's chocolate	400-500 mg per ounce
Dark chocolate	155 mg per ounce
Milk chocolate	60-70 mg per ounce
White chocolate	0.25 mg per ounce

Table 1

of your dog's symptoms, hospitalization and supportive treatment may be necessary. Chocolate poisoning in dogs may manifest itself in the following ways:

- Vomiting and/or nausea
- Diarrhea
- Thirst increases
- Lethargy
- Panting or a faster rate of breathing
- Anxious or restless behavior
- Urination is becoming more frequent.
- Increased heart rate or racing
- Abnormal heart rhythm
- Tremors in the muscles
- A rise in body temperature
- Seizures, fainting, coma, or death are advanced indications.

If your dog eats chocolate, you should seek medical attention straight away. Your veterinarian can advise you if the quantity consumed is hazardous and what course of action we should opt for.

When dogs consume roughly 9 mg of methylxanthines per pound of body weight, symptoms begin to appear. At 20 mg/pound of bodyweight, severe sickness is probable. The earlier a dog is medicated, the more likely it is to recover without complications. If you fear your dog has consumed chocolate, save the package or snap a photo of it to submit to your veterinarian.

A veterinarian may provide the following treatments:

- Activated charcoal is used to inhibit additional toxin absorption from the intestines.
- A gastric tube is inserted into the stomach to eliminate the poison.
- Intravenous fluids are used to aid hydration and provide cardiovascular support.
- Other treatments aiming at reducing or eliminating specific clinical symptoms

A chocolate-eating dog's overall prognosis is often favorable with prompt and effective treatment.

The best protection is to keep chocolate in a secure location (including the refrigerator) and teach people in the home not to offer chocolate to dogs. Keep your pet out of the dining and kitchen areas by using a baby gate. Teach your dog to follow the order "leave it".

Whether you're celebrating a special event or just eating chocolate regularly, keep in mind that chocolate poses a significant risk to pets. Keep chocolate treats out of reach of your dog, and safeguard your adorable pet!