

Can dogs eat strawberries?

Dog owners are often bombarded with conflicting advise as to what dogs can and can't eat. Some of the most seemingly safe foods can in fact be harmful to dogs.

Whilst teaching Canine First Aid over some years I have heard variations of the following:

“My Dad gives his Alsatian some beer in the summer outside pubs. “

“My Auntie swears by garlic as a supplement.”



“Are bananas alright?”

“How much chocolate is harmful to dogs?”

“My Grandma feeds raisins to her dogs as a treat.”

“Avocado?”

It is important to remember that dogs are not humans and are susceptible to different foods in different ways than humans. I know this sounds obvious, but some owners bestow human characteristics onto their dogs which in some cases can lead to similar diets.

I haven't the space to go over all of these foodstuffs in detail but let's cover the food that gets discussed the most between dog owners.



That is Chocolate!!

**Different types of chocolate contain different amounts of theobromine which is harmful to dogs. Dark chocolate high in theobromine
White chocolate low in theobromine.**

So white chocolate is not such an issue as it won't poison your dog, but it has a high fat content and can still make your pet ill with pancreatitis.

What does theobromine do?

Theobromine mainly affects the heart, central nervous system and kidneys. Symptoms occur from 4-24 hours after your dog has eaten chocolate.

What symptoms will I see?

. Usually, the more chocolate consumed the worse the symptoms.

Eating large amounts can prove fatal:

. Usually, the more chocolate consumed the worse the symptoms which can include;

- Vomiting (possibly including blood)**
- Diarrhoea**
- Hyperactivity and restlessness**
- Rapid breathing**
- Muscle twitching**
- Increased heart rate**
- Seizures / fitting**

What to do if you think your dog has eaten chocolate?

Contact your Vet as quickly as possible and provide them with as much information as you can about how much chocolate and what type your dog has ingested. Keep the wrappers and remains of the chocolate to take with you to the surgery.

Treatment

There is no antidote to theobromine. In most cases of chocolate poisoning, your vet will initially make your dog vomit, wash out their stomach and then feed them activated charcoal to absorb any theobromine left in the intestine.

If you want to learn more about dangerous foods, then a Level 2 Canine First Aid will cover this as well as a multitude of advice on keeping your dog healthy and dealing with sickness or injury.

