



CHOCOLATE TOXICITY

What is Wrong with Chocolate?

Chocolate contains a stimulant called theobromine. It is related to caffeine. It is safe for humans in the amounts we usually consume, but is dangerous for cats and dogs. Dogs like the taste of chocolate and are likely to eat it if given the chance. All chocolate must be considered potentially dangerous to dogs.

How Much Would Poison My Dog?

Theobromine is at the highest levels in unsweetened or baker's chocolate and at the lowest levels in milk chocolate. For instance a dog weighing between 5 and 20 pounds can be killed by consuming just 1/2 to 2 ounces of unsweetened chocolate, but it would take 4 to 16 ounces of milk chocolate. A 20 to 40 pound dog will become toxic after eating only 2 to 4 ounces of unsweetened chocolate.

Toxic Levels

Dog's Weight	Milk Chocolate	Chocolate Chips	Unsweetened Chocolate
5 lbs	4 oz	1.5 oz	0.5 oz
10 lbs	8 oz	3.0 oz	1.5 oz
20 lbs	16 oz	6.5 oz	2.5 oz
30 lbs	28 oz	9.5 oz	3.2 oz
40 lbs	40 oz	13.3 oz	4.5 oz
50 lbs	48 oz	16.6 oz	5.5 oz
60 lbs	50 oz	20.0 oz	6.7 oz
75 lbs	76 oz	25.2 oz	8.5 oz

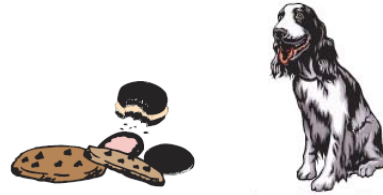
What Are the Signs of Chocolate Intoxication?

Some of the signs that may be seen include vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, heavy breathing, increased heart rate, muscle tremors, seizures ("fits"), lack of bladder control, coma, and even death.

How is It Treated?

Early after ingestion (within 2 hours), treatment consists of emptying the pet's stomach by giving

medicine that makes it vomit. Other treatments may



include gastric lavage (stomach pumping), administration of an activated charcoal slurry to absorb the residual theobromine, and intravenous fluid therapy to maintain proper blood pressure and hydration and to help eliminate absorbed theobromine through urine production.

If the pet is seizing, sedatives are given as needed to decrease the brain stimulation by the theobromine.

Prevention is the BEST Treatment!

Beware of the dangers of chocolate and pets, especially during the holiday seasons. If accidental ingestion occurs, call us before signs of toxicity develop.

Call Us if:

Your pet eats chocolate. Remember only a small amount is needed to create signs of toxicity. Some signs to watch for include:

- diarrhea or vomiting
- weakness or depression
- trouble breathing



In the advanced stages the pet will seizure and become comatose before dying. Treatment is always more successful and less expensive if started early.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!