

## Just the Facts...

### Protect Your Pets from Common Household Dangers

You may have heard news stories about pets harmed from eating sugar free candies or gum. Humans and animals have different digestive systems. So even though a food is healthy for you, your pet may not be able to properly or safely digest it. People treats such as rich, fatty or spicy foods may cause your pet to have vomiting and diarrhea.

The following is a partial list of foods that should be considered dangerous for your household pet.

1. **Candy and Gum.** Any candy, gum or breath fresheners should be considered dangerous and potentially harmful for your pet.

- **Chocolate.** Different types of chocolate cause different types of problems for your pet. Less sweet chocolate (for example; semi-sweet, Bakers, dark, and unsweetened) can potentially cause severe complications for your pet. Theobromine is the ingredient in chocolate that can cause your pet complications. **NO CHOCOLATE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SAFE FOR YOUR PET.** Examples of complications from ingestion of chocolate—



- Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Seizures
  - Hyperactivity
  - Increased thirst, urination, and heart rate
- **Xylitol** is a sweetener used in various types of items including candy and gum. Examples of



complications from ingestion of candies or gum containing Xylitol—

- Depression
- Incoordination
- Seizures
- Sudden drop in blood sugar

2. **Alcoholic Beverages.** You should never allow your pet to consume any alcoholic beverages. Their (pets) body processes alcohol differently than the human body does. A very small amount of alcohol could be lethal to your pet. Examples of complications from ingestion of alcoholic beverages—

- Weakness
- Vomiting
- Respiratory Failure
- Coma
- Death



3. **Fruits and Nuts.** Grapes, raisins, avocados, and macadamia nuts can be harmful for pets.

4. **Spices or Seasonings.** Items such as coffee grounds, tea, yeast dough, salt, onions, and garlic can cause your pet to experience vomiting or diarrhea.

Always keep garbage away from your pets as well. Rotting foods breed molds or bacteria that can cause food poisoning.

Keeping your pet on a regular diet throughout the year is important. Many nonfood household items can also be harmful to your pet. For more information on this subject, you can contact the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) or go to the AVMA website at:

[http://www.avma.org/communications/brochures/hazards/household\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.avma.org/communications/brochures/hazards/household_brochure.pdf)