



## **PET-RIFYING SWEETS: One Time When NOT Sharing Is The Kindest Thing**

Okay pet owners, LISTEN UP! Many people snacks should not be “Scooby Snacks”!

It is not, not, NOT loving or funny to give your pets candy, sweets, even grapes or raisins or alcohol. These things can and do send thousands of pets to the Emergency Clinic every year! Sadly, they also kill hundreds of dogs and cats. Even swallowing a candy wrapper can cause a serious or deadly blockage.



### **DON'T LET YOUR BELOVED PET BECOME A SAD STATISTIC.**

Pay attention.

Keep all sweets securely out of reach of agile dogs and cats.

- **Chocolate** – It’s dangerous all year, but this is Halloween-Thanksgiving-Christmas-Hanukkah candy season and chocolate is e.v.e.r.y.w.h.e.r.e.
  - Can cause damage to lungs, hearts, kidneys and nervous system
  - Dark and semi-sweet chocolate and cocoa powder are the worst,
  - While it may take more chocolate to make a large dog sick, there’s always a risk of intestinal blockage if they swallow the wrappers!
- **Grapes and Raisins (and therefore alcohol!)** – most people don’t know it’s harmful
  - Even a single grape or raisin can damage your pet’s kidneys
  - The kidneys have to be seriously damaged before you even see signs your pet is sick (50-75% diseased/ non-functional) – and by that time it may be too late.
  - Healthy alternatives are carrots, green beans, peppers, bananas, blueberries, and watermelon. NOTE: NOT tomatoes – they cause tremors and heart arrhythmias in some dogs
- **Sugarless Gum/Candy (ANYTHING with Xylitol)** – low cal in people but deadly in pets
  - Xylitol causes (1) severe liver damage, and (2) the pancreas to release insulin, lowering your pet’s blood sugar level into the danger zone
  - Gum is NOT digestible! It can easily cause intestinal blockage.
  - If your pet’s breath is really bad, try (1) a dental cleaning through your vet, (2) brushing their teeth with *pet-safe* toothpaste, (3) baking homemade cookies that contain parsley and mint, which are safe breathe fresheners.



Missouri German Shepherd Rescue (MoGS)  
Doggie Health & Wellness Team  
**Wellness Wednesday Series on Canine Health**



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- **Macadamia Nuts** – some nuts are fine but not this one!
  - Can cause vomiting, lethargy, muscle/joint pain, tremors, swollen limbs/joints, and even weakness or paralysis in the hindquarters
  - Macadamia butter and Macadamia ice cream carry the same risk
  - Use other nuts in moderation -- they're high in fat, protein, and usually salt!
- **Other foods that can cause intestinal upset and/or severe organ damage include:**
  - Avocados (fluid accumulation in chest/abdomen/heart and difficulty breathing)
  - Pear-peach-plum-apricot-apple pits (cyanide poisoning from cyanogenic glycosides)
  - Milk
  - High fat foods
  - High sugary foods

**If your pet eats any of these foods**, consult your vet before you try home treatments. If that's not possible, try an emergency clinic or the ASPCA Animal Poison Center (see link). Some people induce vomiting with hydrogen peroxide, but be aware that has its own risks and should only be a last resort. Your pet may also require activated charcoal to absorb residual toxins and protect the GI tract from damage.

**In emergencies, contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435**  
<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/people-foods-avoid-feeding-your-pets>  
<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons/>. A \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card (so have it handy).