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## Xylitol

Xylitol, a sugar substitute used in many sugarless products, can be deadly for dogs. Many dog owners know chocolate is bad for their dogs, but they may not realize that xylitol is found in sugarless gum, candies, oral products, and some peanut butters and other nut butters. If you feed your dog pills coated in peanut butter, or put peanut butter in their hollow chew toys, make sure to check the list of ingredients first to make sure it does not contain xylitol.



## Salty Snacks

Salty snacks, in large quantities, could also cause problems in your dog. Feeding the odd potato chip or pretzel probably will not do any harm, but if your dog gets into a whole bag of them, they could get really sick. Make sure your dog has access to plenty of water at all times, especially if they get into salty snacks.



## A Word about Cats

Why the focus on dogs? Cats are far pickier eaters than dogs and do not often get into trouble by eating foods that will harm them. However, cats are highly-sensitive to onions, garlic, and onion and garlic powders, so make sure your cat has no opportunity to eat foods containing these ingredients.



## For more information:

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Association of American Feed Control Officials

[www.aafco.org](http://www.aafco.org)

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## Additional Information:

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Plant Industry - Agriculture Inputs

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Telephone: 404-656-4958



# PAWS Before You Feed



## Good Dog, Bad Food:

Common Foods for People that are  
Bad for Your Dog

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[www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov)

If you consider the family dog *family* - and are apt to toss them a piece of your food now and then - proceed with caution. Some foods meant for human consumption can be dangerous, and even deadly, to your dog.

Our bodies may break down foods or other chemicals that a dog's cannot tolerate. Moreover, a food might harm one dog and not another. There are a number of depending factors, including the animal's genetic makeup and size, as well as the amount that animal eats.

## What Foods Top the List?

### Onions, Garlic, & Chives

Onions, garlic, and chives (as well as onion and garlic powder) can be harmful to your dog, especially in large amounts. If you have added onions and garlic powder in your salsa, marinade, or beans, do not let your dog get into the leftovers.

### Fried & Fatty Foods

Fried and fatty foods can not only give your dog a stomach ache, but can also cause a potentially life-threatening disease called pancreatitis. Even if your dog is eyeing the fried chicken with longing, resist the temptation to give him his own piece to chew on.



### Raw Meat

Raw meat can contain *E.coli*, *Salmonella*, or other harmful bacteria. If you're making hamburger patties or setting out steaks and chicken breasts for the barbecue, make sure they are well out of reach of your counter-sniffing canines.

Food safety is important for you and your pet. Do not handle raw meat and then give your dog a treat unless you've washed your hands first. It works the other way around, too: people get sick after handling contaminated dog food, not washing their hands, and then using their hands to eat a snack.



### Grapes, Raisins, & Currants

Grapes, raisins, and currants can cause kidney failure in some dogs. Not all dogs are affected by these fruits, but if you think you are handing your dog a healthy snack, you could be disastrously wrong.

## Macadamia Nuts

Macadamia nuts are rich in fat which can give your dog an upset stomach and may cause pancreatitis. In addition, macadamia nuts contain a toxin that, when ingested, as few as six of the raw or roasted nuts can make dogs ill.



## Moldy Foods

Moldy foods are not something you would feed your family, and your dog should not eat them either. If you put moldy cheese rinds or hamburger buns in the trash can, make sure your dog does not get into the garbage. Likewise, if you have a compost pile, be sure the moldy scraps are well out of reach.

