

Chocolate is Poisonous to Dogs

Can Dogs Eat Chocolate?

No, dogs should never eat chocolate. It contains a chemical called theobromine, which is toxic to them. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is for your pup.

If your dog accidentally gets into some chocolate, how serious it is will depend on their size, the type of chocolate, and how much they've eaten. It's always a good idea to reach out to your vet for guidance right away.



Signs of Chocolate Poisoning in Dogs

Even a small amount of chocolate can make your dog very sick. Look out for these symptoms:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Hyperactivity
- Tremors or seizures
- Irregular heartbeats
- In severe cases, death

If your dog shows any of these signs, contact your vet immediately.

How Much Chocolate Is Too Much?

The darker the chocolate, the more theobromine it contains, making it more toxic. Here's a breakdown:



- **Dark Chocolate:** This is the most dangerous type of chocolate for dogs. With its higher cocoa content, it contains much more theobromine. If your dog has eaten dark chocolate, seek urgent veterinary care.
- **Cocoa Powder:** This is even more toxic than dark chocolate. If your dog has ingested cocoa powder, get in touch with your vet as quickly as possible.
- **Milk Chocolate:** While milk chocolate has less theobromine than dark chocolate, it can still be harmful. It's always wise to check with your vet, who will assess your dog's weight, the amount eaten, and the cocoa percentage to evaluate the risk.
- **White Chocolate:** White chocolate contains very little theobromine, so it's not a major risk in terms of toxicity. However, it's packed with sugar and fat, which can lead to other problems like pancreatitis, so it's still best avoided.



Chocolate with Fillings

If your dog has gotten into a box of chocolates with fillings, it's even trickier to determine how much actual chocolate they've eaten. Some fillings can also be harmful to dogs, including nuts, raisins, or even alcohol. Even if the chocolate levels are low, these ingredients can still pose a risk, so always check with your vet.

If you're ever unsure, it's better to be safe than sorry—reach out to your vet or an animal poison control hotline for help.