



**POISONOUS TO DOGS**

# Chocolate



**Did you know chocolate is bad for dogs? Even if you did, you might think a tiny bit won't do them any harm, but don't be fooled. Eating chocolate, even just licking the melted remains around the edge of a bowl, can cause a dog to vomit, give him diarrhoea, and make him really thirsty. It can also cause abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and, ultimately, death. *Always keep chocolate away from your dog.***

## **WHY IS CHOCOLATE SO LETHAL**

Chocolate contains theobromine, a naturally occurring stimulant that is found in cocoa beans. Theobromine increases the need to urinate, and affects the central nervous system and the heart. While amounts vary according to the type of chocolate, it is the theobromine in chocolate that is poisonous to dogs.

## **HOW MUCH CHOCOLATE IS DEADLY?**

If a 30kg dog eats a teaspoonful of milk chocolate, it is unlikely to cause serious problems. But if that same dog gorges himself on a two-layer chocolate cake, his stomach will be more than a little upset. Soon afterwards he will be vomiting and/or experiencing diarrhoea. The health and age of a dog also makes a difference. An older, less fit dog will react differently to eating a heap of chocolate than a young, healthy dog that weighs the same. Not all chocolate is the same. The amount of theobromine can vary considerably. Generally speaking, smaller dogs can be poisoned by smaller amounts of chocolate than larger dogs.



**Please call your vet as soon as possible if you are worried that your pet has eaten something he shouldn't have. Best to be on the safe side.**