

Can dogs eat sweets?

From the sweeties.net wiki

Dogs should not eat sweets. Some sweets contain ingredients that are poisonous to dogs, sometimes fatally, so the safest rule is not to share sweets with your dog at all. If your dog has eaten sweets, check what was in them and call your vet.

Xylitol: the biggest danger

Xylitol is a sweetener used in low sugar and sugar free products. The PDSA lists it in sugar free chewing gum, sweets, medicines, some nut butters and nicotine chewing gum, and warns that it is extremely harmful to dogs and can be fatal if eaten.

People can eat xylitol, although too much of it has a laxative effect. In dogs, it triggers a surge of insulin. As little as 100 milligrams per kilogram of body weight can cause a dose dependent insulin release, and depending on the dose, that can lead to life threatening low blood sugar. Symptoms can start as soon as 30 to 60 minutes after eating it, and vomiting is often the first sign, followed by tiredness and wobbliness. At doses above 500 milligrams per kilogram, liver failure is likely.

Because the dangerous dose depends on the dog's weight, small dogs are at risk from smaller amounts. Keep sugar free sweets and gum well out of reach: see [what are sugar free sweets made with?](#)

Chocolate

Chocolate contains theobromine, a natural chemical that the PDSA warns can be fatal to dogs, cats and rabbits. Dogs break it down far more slowly than people do, and they are the most common victims of theobromine poisoning. The darker the chocolate, the higher the risk, because dark and baking chocolate contain much more theobromine than milk chocolate or chocolate sweets. Chocolate covered sweets, chocolate raisins and fudge with chocolate in it all count.

Raisins, sultanas and currants

Grapes, raisins, sultanas and currants contain toxins that are potentially fatal to dogs, and sweets and treats that contain them can seriously damage a dog's kidneys. The PDSA says it is impossible to know whether a particular dog will be affected, so it is always best to call your vet if you think your dog has eaten them.

Wrappers and sticks

Even when the sweets themselves contain nothing poisonous, the packaging can still cause harm. Food wrappers, skewers and other packaging can cause blockages in a dog's gut if they are swallowed.

What to do

If your dog has eaten sweets, try to find out what they were, how many were eaten and when, and keep the packet. Then contact your vet straight away. Do not wait for symptoms to appear: the US Food and Drug Administration warns that with xylitol, serious effects may not show in some cases for up to 12 to 24 hours.

Keeping sweets safe

The simplest protection is storage. Keep sweets, chocolate and chewing gum in sealed containers, up high and away from pets, and do not leave bags of pick and mix lying on low tables or in coat pockets: see [how should you store pick and mix?](#)

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