

Top 10 foods your pet shouldn't eat

Our research shows that 68% of dog owners and 47% of cat owners have fed their pets human food.

Eating some human foods can increase the risk of pancreatitis, kidney disease – not to mention food poisoning. If your pet eats any human food and shows signs of weakness, vomiting or any other unusual behaviour, contact your vet immediately.



68%



47%

What to watch out for:



Stone fruit, like peaches and plums, can cause obstructions. Also, the stones contain cyanide, which is poisonous to both humans and dogs



Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in dogs, and even small amounts of the fruit can prove fatally toxic. Look out for vomiting, diarrhoea and dehydration.



Nuts, like macadamias and mouldy walnuts can cause toxic poisoning. Almonds and pistachios can result in an upset stomach or an obstruction.



Bones can splinter and cause an obstruction or lacerations.

Corn
The cobs can cause a gastrointestinal obstruction.



Alcohol can cause seizures or respiratory failure.

Watch out for alcohol in hidden places, like desserts, sauces and the yeast in raw dough.



Onion and garlic toxicity can result in diarrhoea and vomiting and, in severe cases, damage and loss of red blood cells. It only takes a small amount to poison a cat or dog.

Fatty foods and meat trimmings can induce pancreatic inflammation.
Raw meat and fish can cause food poisoning, like salmonella.



Chocolate contains theobromine which can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, excessive panting, abnormal heartbeat, seizures or even death. A standard 200g block of dark chocolate is potentially enough to kill a dog.



True customer stories

One little pooch with a sweet tooth ate two hollow Easter bunnies and an Easter egg plus the foil wrapping, resulting in over \$1,000 in vet bills – and a noticeable chocolate smell when burping.

A sneaky Spaniel scooped a bottle of calcium supplements obviously meant for its human owners. The vet costs totalled more than \$1,000 after induced vomiting, blood tests and observation.



Tips

- Be sure pets can't get at the rubbish bag and snaffle up those leftovers!
- Train pets to stay off the kitchen benches so they don't scavenge while your back is turned.
- Be aware of the ingredients in your meals. For example, if your pet gets their paws on a slice of your pizza, make sure they haven't just eaten onions or garlic.

Last year
Southern Cross
Pet Insurance
received*

639 claims
worth \$35,000 for
pancreatitis

439 claims
worth \$34,000
for seizures

573 claims
worth \$25,000 for
kidney failure

Despite your most careful attention, pets can still get up to a bit of mischief and sometimes need a vet. Make sure you can afford the care they need with Southern Cross Pet Insurance.

Get a quote at southerncrosspet.co.nz or call **0800 800 836**.