

Human Foods That Are Toxic To Pets

BY JAKE GEIS, DVM
Tyndall

Pets are curious animals. We all have found that if we set a package of hamburger out on the counter or throw old leftovers in the garbage, inevitably our pets zero in on these food items like a moth to a bug zapper. While it may be frustrating that Fluffy feasted on your meatloaf just before it was going to the table, some human food items can be toxic to pets. By knowing what these foods are we can make an extra effort to keep them from our curious four-legged friends and save a trip to the vet.

Almost everyone has heard that chocolate is dangerous for dogs, but not all chocolates are created equal. For example, milk chocolate is only mildly toxic for dogs. That being said, if your Yorkie eats an entire 16 ounce bag of M&Ms, we might have an issue. However, if your kids give the Doberman one Hershey's Kiss, it isn't a big concern. It comes down to the amount of milk chocolate to the size of the animal. A little bit of milk chocolate won't harm a larger dog, a lot of milk chocolate can harm a small dog.

On the other hand, baking chocolate can be a real problem, even in small doses. It has six times the amount of theobromine, the compound that is toxic to dogs, as milk chocolate. The compound theobromine affects pets by stimulating their heart to beat faster and irregularly. It also can cause seizures and larger than normal reflexes. These symptoms can also be seen in pets that have eaten coffee beans or caffeine pills, as caffeine is in the same family of pet toxins as theobromine.

Another potentially problematic food for pets associated with baking is bread dough. Although the dough is not toxic, the warmth of your pet's body causes the dough to rise inside their stomach. The more it rises, the more stress it puts on their stomach and intestines. It can even cause the stomach to burst. Correcting this condition may require emergency surgery.

Baking toxicities for pets are not limited to dough and chocolate. Macadamia nuts and raisins are also toxic to pets. Macadamia nuts are known to cause hind leg paralysis and tremors in dogs, although they can be reversed and are not often fatal. On the other hand, raisins and grapes can have more lasting effect by



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damaging the kidneys. Dogs that have ingested raisins will have vomiting, be lethargic and have diarrhea. Foods other than baking ingredients can also make our pets sick.

Onions and similar flavor profile vegetables, such as chives, leaks and garlic, contain a chemical called thiosulfate, which is quite toxic to dogs and cats. These plants damage pet red blood cells and lead to the formation of Heinz bodies, which are areas of damaged hemoglobin within a red blood cell. Because of this, onions and similar vegetables cause anemia. The symptoms of this are weakness, vomiting, and being short of breath.

If your dog happens to decide garlic tastes delicious, giving him some gum to freshen his herby-smelling breath would be a poor choice. Xylitol, the sugar substitute found in gum and diabetes-friendly foods, is a naturally occurring substance that humans can consume without worry. This is not true for pets. When consumed by dogs, it causes a rapid release of insulin, which lowers blood sugar to unsafe levels. This low blood sugar, termed hypoglycemia, causes a loss of coordination, seizures or a coma as soon as 30 minutes after being ingested. It can also damage the liver.

If you suspect your pet has consumed one of these human foods, it is important to contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. Most of these are dose-dependent toxins, meaning that a small amount won't hurt them, but a moderate amount will. While at miniscule doses they may not require veterinary intervention, consulting with your veterinarian before you pet shows symptoms of poisoning may be the difference between a quick vet visit and intensive care. The best option is to take extra care to keep these foods away from pets and to not give them access to table scraps, which can unknowingly contain some of these ingredients. If we focus on prevention, we won't have to worry about treatment.

Jake Geis, DVM, works out of the Tyndall Veterinary Clinic.

MENUS

Menus listed below are for the week of March 30, 2015. Menus are subject to change without notice. All meals are served with milk.

Yankton Elementary Schools

Monday — Taco In A Bag
Tuesday — Chicken Littles
Wednesday — N/A
Thursday — N/A
Friday — N/A

Yankton Middle School

Monday — Teriyaki Chicken
Tuesday — Tavern
Wednesday — N/A
Thursday — N/A
Friday — N/A

YHS A Line Menu

Monday — Lasagna
Tuesday — French Toast
Wednesday — N/A
Thursday — N/A
Friday — N/A

YHS B Line Menu

Monday — BBQ Chicken
Tuesday — French Toast
Wednesday — N/A
Thursday — N/A
Friday — N/A

YHS C Line Menu

Monday — Bacon Cheesburger
Tuesday — Chicken Littles
Wednesday — N/A
Thursday — N/A
Friday — N/A

Sacred Heart Schools

Monday — Pepperoni Pizza
Tuesday — Chicken Alfredo
Wednesday — Ham
Thursday — Corn dog
Friday — N/A

The Center/Yankton

Monday — Swiss Steak
Tuesday — Mandarin Chicken
Wednesday — N/A
Thursday — N/A
Friday — N/A

Tabor Senior Citizens Center

Monday — N/A
Tuesday — Baked Ham
Wednesday — N/A
Thursday — N/A
Friday — N/A

Car Talk

Broken Wire Cause Of Wiper Failure

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI

King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 2001 Honda Odyssey minivan. Its rear wiper suddenly stopped working. I took it to a neighborhood mechanic. He thought that the motor had burned out, so he replaced it. It still didn't work. He tried to replace a coil, located on the driver's side near the back door. That didn't fix it, either. Finally, he replaced the switch. Still nothing. If I try to turn on the wiper, only wiper fluid comes out. Could you please tell me what to do next? — Vinod

Go to another shop, where they know how these things work.

Well, let's give him the benefit of the doubt and assume he tested for current, and found that there was current getting to the motor. That's why he figured the motor was bad. I'm not sure why he then replaced the switch or a coil. But let's leave that aside for the moment.

If current is getting to the motor, the



Ray

MAGLIOZZI

wiper, the washer, the rear defroster, the license plate illumination, etc. After the tailgate is opened and closed 50,000 times, and those wires are bent and straightened out 50,000 times, it's not unusual for a wire to break. And since we're assuming he had current at the motor, I would guess it's a ground wire that broke.

So what he needs to do is test that theory by grounding the motor to some part of the body — the car's body, not

his, Vinod.

If the motor then works, he needs to re-establish a good ground for the motor. And it has to run back through that bundle of wires, unless you want it draped over the seats.

So he'll then cut open the bundle, find the fraying or broken wire, splice it back together, close up that bundle, apologize for selling you \$300 worth of parts you didn't need, and send you on your way. Good luck, Vinod.

You want to buy a used car, but how do you find a good one? Car Talk can help! Order "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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AND DOUG BERMAN

Latest Vital Statistics Report: Births Increase, Marriages Decrease, Age At Death Sets Record

LINCOLN, Neb. — Did you know approximately 60,000 records of vital events are filed every year in Nebraska? The 2013 Nebraska Vital Statistics report contains information on births, deaths, marriages and divorces. Here's a quick snapshot of the report by the numbers.

BIRTHS

• 26,094 live births occurred among Nebraska women in 2013 which is the highest number of births since 2009.

• The average age of a Nebraska woman giving birth to her first child increased in past decades — 24 years in 1988 to 25.5 years in 2013.

• The average age of a Nebraska woman giving birth to her second child also in-



METRO GRAPHICS

creased — 26.8 years in 1988 to 28.1 years in 2013.

DEATHS

New state record — The average age at death for Nebraskans in 2013 was 75.7 years old.

Average age at death breakdown by gender:

• Nebraska women — 79 years.

• Nebraska men — 72.1 years.

Nebraska's leading causes of death: cancer, heart disease, chronic lung disease, stroke and accidents (unintentional injuries).

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

• The number of marriages in Nebraska has been on the decline since 1970.

• 11,765 marriages took place in Nebraska in 2013. This is the state's lowest year marriage tally since 1963.

• Age at marriage continues to increase. More than half of Nebraska marriages in 2013 involved either a bride or groom at least 30 years old. One in nine included a bride or groom who was at least 50 years old.

• The number of divorces in Nebraska declined. There were 6,100 divorces in 2013 versus 6,307 in 2012. Overall, the divorce rate has been on a slow decline since the 1990s.

• More than half of divorces were granted to people 35 years old or older.

To see more information in the report, go to http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/ced_vs.aspx/.

A Pioneer Railroad Builder Of South Dakota

Charles Prior put many towns in South Dakota on the map.

Prior was an official in Minneapolis with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, commonly known as the Milwaukee Road.

His job was to decide where the new railroad tracks would go and make new towns along the railroad.

Between 1880 and 1884, at least 23 towns in what would become South Dakota were platted, or laid out, on land owned by Prior, according to "The Influence of Railroads upon the Processes and Patterns of Settlement in South Dakota" by James Fredrick Hamburg.

These towns were Milbank, Waubay, Webster, Bristol, Andover, Groton, Bath, Aberdeen, Mina, Ipswich, Wilmot, Frederick, Westport, Warner, Mellette, Ashton, Tular, Bonilla, Virgil, Alpena, Woonsocket, Artesian and Roswell.

Of these towns, Prior is believed to have named at least eight. Different explanations exist as to why he chose the names Bristol, Andover, Groton and Ipswich.

They include naming the towns after cities in England, after towns in his native New England, and to honor his mentor, S.S. Merrill, who was a Scotsman.

He is credited with naming Wilmot to honor Judge Wilmot Brookings; Alpena for Alpena, Mich.; Virgil for his admiration of the poet; and Woonsocket for a town by the same name in Rhode Island. Some sources state that he also named Aberdeen in honor of Alexander Mitchell, president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, who came from Aberdeen, Scotland.

In an interview published in the Prior Lake American in



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Charles Prior's job was to decide where new railroad tracks would go — which put many towns on the South Dakota map.

1976, Harold Rhame of Saint Paul, Minn., said: "My grandfather, Charles Prior, was a very meticulous man. Everything he did was proper and precise. He kept a daily diary and in it recorded items, many of which were rather mundane, though many items were records of historical value."

For example, at LaCrosse, Wis., on March 14, 1867, Prior mentions that the men on the gravel train went on strike asking for wages of 12 cents an hour.

A contemporary of railroad magnate James J. Hill, Prior wrote in his diary on July 8, 1879, "Saw Jim Hill in St. Paul, who says that John C. Duncan of Des Moines, Ia., has 30 miles of railroad to sell him for \$30,000. Hill wants me to take half with him."

Prior refused the offer. Prior was born in Connecticut on Aug. 1, 1833. His

family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, when he was about 5 years old. He studied at Oberlin College and at Ohio State University, graduating with a degree in civil engineering, according to his obituary.

He soon started working for railroads as a civil engineer.

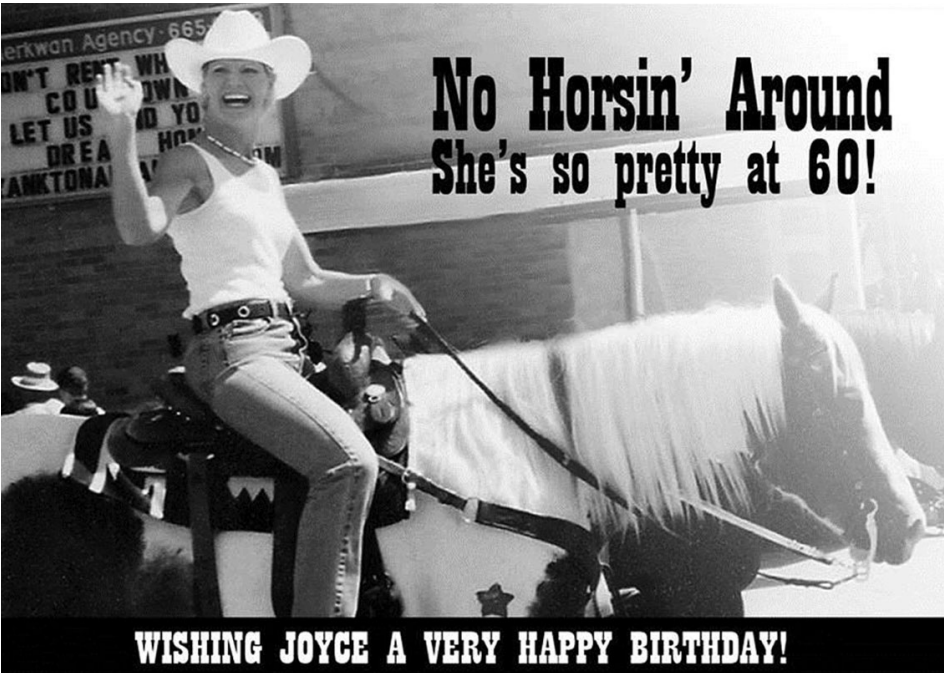
He became associated with Milwaukee Road in 1857.

"Under Mr. Prior's direction, the first line of the St. Paul road was brought into Minneapolis in 1870," read Prior's obituary. "The following year he became superintendent of the Minnesota division and extended lines throughout the state. He supervised construction of the road into North and South Dakota and played a prominent part in mapping Aberdeen."

As a line was built, a town would be platted every five to 10 miles. This is where farmers would bring their crops and livestock to send to the "city."

When the tracks of the Milwaukee Road reached Groton, the company had intended to angle its tracks northwest toward Bismarck, passing through Columbia. Usually, towns gladly gave the railroad land for right-of-way.

However, the Richmond Townsite Company asked the Milwaukee for right-of-way payment and a drawbridge over a river. Prior, according to "Brown County History," refused to meet these demands and rerouted the rail line straight west from Groton. The tracks reached Aberdeen on July 6, 1881.



SCHOLASTICS

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

LINCOLN, Neb. — One-hundred-sixty-six UNL Honors students were recently selected for honor societies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Invitations to the Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma societies were sent in early February and the initiation ceremony took place March 15 in UNL's East Campus Union.

The University of Ne-

braska-Lincoln chapters of ALD and PES work together as a joint chapter. Although the national requirement to become a member is a 3.5 grade-point average, the UNL chapters of Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma recognizes those with a 3.75 or higher GPA. Those selected for chapter membership include those who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75 on a 4.0 scale at the end of any first year, full-time curricular period — provided

they have carried a normal academic load acceptable to award a bachelor's degree — and who rank in the upper 20 percent of their class.

These students were among the new members:

• Hannah Cook of Verdigris, Nebraska: Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies

• Emily Paltz of St. Helena, Nebraska: Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies.