

To avoid 4 REASONS table scraps



Campus Times

We've all been there before: a hot meal has been prepared and the aroma fills your home. Your appetite grows from the dinner-time scents, but yours aren't the only senses to be stirred. You sit down at the dinner table and beneath you, waiting longingly beside your chair as you eat, is your loyal friend, your best buddy: your pet. He's giving you his strongest pair of "puppy dog eyes." He's doing a great job of pleading his own case. You're just about to give in, because why not? You run through a list of reasons why giving your pet table scraps seems like a good idea: *I should reward him for being a good boy. He'll love me even more if I give him some of my own meal. You only live once.* But in this misplaced affection lies several dangers that are simply best to avoid. So next time you're at the dinner table, consider these few things:

The danger of bones. The cooking process makes bones more brittle, increasing the likelihood they might splinter and cause internal injury to your dog. Cooking can also remove the nutrition contained in bones. In addition, bones in human meals can cause broken teeth in dogs. Bones have also been known to get stuck in the

mouth, esophagus, windpipe, stomach or the intestines (which can cause a blockage, and often times requires surgery to be repaired). Constipation can also result from eating bone fragments. Your pet may have a hard time passing the bone fragments because they're very sharp and they scrape the inside of the large intestine. Bones also contain lots of calcium, which is very firming to the stool. Lastly, peritonitis, a difficult-to-treat bacterial infection can result when bone fragments poke holes in your dog's stomach or intestines.

Kidney Failure. Large amounts of salt can produce excessive thirst and urination, or even sodium ion poisoning in pets. Signs that your pet may have eaten too many salty foods include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, tremors, elevated body temperature, seizures and even death. In other words, keep those salty chips to yourself!

Over stimulation. Chocolate, coffee, caffeine: each of these products all contain substances called methylxanthines, which are found in cacao seeds, the fruit of the plant used to make coffee and in the nuts of an extract used in

some sodas. When ingested by pets, methylxanthines can cause vomiting and diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and even death. Note that darker chocolate is more dangerous than milk chocolate. White chocolate has the lowest level of methylxanthines, while baking chocolate contains the highest.

Inability to digest. Onions, garlic, chives: These vegetables and herbs can cause gastrointestinal irritation and could lead to red blood cell damage. Although cats are more susceptible, dogs are also at risk if a large enough amount is consumed. An occasional low dose, such as what might be found in pet foods or treats, likely will not cause a problem, but we recommend that you do NOT give your pets large quantities of these foods. Milk can also prove harmful because pets do not possess significant amounts of lactase (the enzyme that breaks down lactose in milk). Milk and other milk-based products can cause diarrhea or other digestive discomfort.

These 10 Household Plants Can Wreck Your Pet:

Tulips It's the bulb of the tulip and narcissus plants that have the highest concentration of toxins. This means: if you have a dog that digs, be cautious. Or, if you are keeping bulbs indoors, make sure they are out of reach.

- Symptoms: Intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

Azaleas Not only toxic to cats and dogs, this popular garden staple is also dangerous for horses, goats and sheep. Ingestion of just a few leaves can cause serious problems.

- Symptoms: Acute digestive upset, excessive drooling, loss of appetite, frequent bowel movements/diarrhea, colic, depression, weakness, loss of coordination, stupor, leg paralysis, weak heart rate.

Poinsettia "Beware the poinsettia," pet-owners have been told ad nauseam. But guess what, they are totally over-rated in toxicity! The ubiquitous holiday decoration may cause discomfort, but not the alarming panic that has been described.

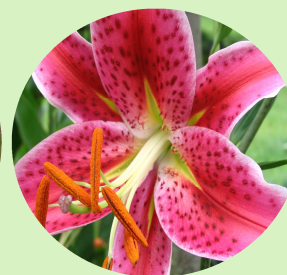
- Symptoms: Irritating to the mouth and stomach, sometimes causing mild vomiting.

Sago Palm If you live in a temperate region, chances are that you have sago palms around. They are a very popular landscaping plant, and also do double duty as a popular bonsai choice. They are apparently very tasty to animals, and unfortunately highly toxic. All parts are poisonous, but especially the seeds.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, melena, icterus, increased thirst, hemorrhagic gastroenteritis, bruising, coagulopathy, liver damage, liver failure, death.

Milkweed Though the monarch butterfly is heavily dependent on milkweed for its livelihood, the plant can be quite toxic to dogs and cats.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, profound depression, weakness, anorexia, and diarrhea are common; may be followed by seizures, difficulty breathing, rapid, weak pulse, dilated pupils, kidney or liver failure, coma, respiratory paralysis and death.



Oleander Found all around California, Oleander is both pretty and poisonous. It can severely effect cats, dogs, and even horses. All parts of the plant contain a highly toxic cardiac glycoside that can cause a number of problems.

- Symptoms: Colic, diarrhea (possibly bloody), sweating, incoordination, shallow/difficult breathing, muscle tremors, recumbency, and possibly death from cardiac failure.

Begonias This popular garden and container plant is toxic to both dogs and cats. The tubers are the most toxic part.

- Symptoms: Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing.

Morning Glory As gorgeous as they are harmful morning glories can cause hallucinations and damage your pet's digestive system. Cat nip is fine, but this trip would be too much for you kitty cat.

- Symptoms: Gastrointestinal upset, agitation, tremors, disorientation, ataxia, anorexia, hallucinations.

Aloe Vera Great for burns, toxic to cats and dogs. Who knew? If you keep an aloe plant on hand for burns, make sure to keep it out of reach for your pets.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, depression, diarrhea, anorexia, tremors, change in urine color.

Lilies So lovely, so fragrant, so dangerous to kitties! Members of the *Lilium* family are considered to be highly toxic to cats, even when very small portions are ingested. Many types of lily (Tiger, Asian, Japanese Show, Easter, Stargazer, Casa Blanca) can cause kidney failure in cats. Curiously, lilies are not toxic to dogs.

- Symptoms: Kidney failure.

Campus Crossword

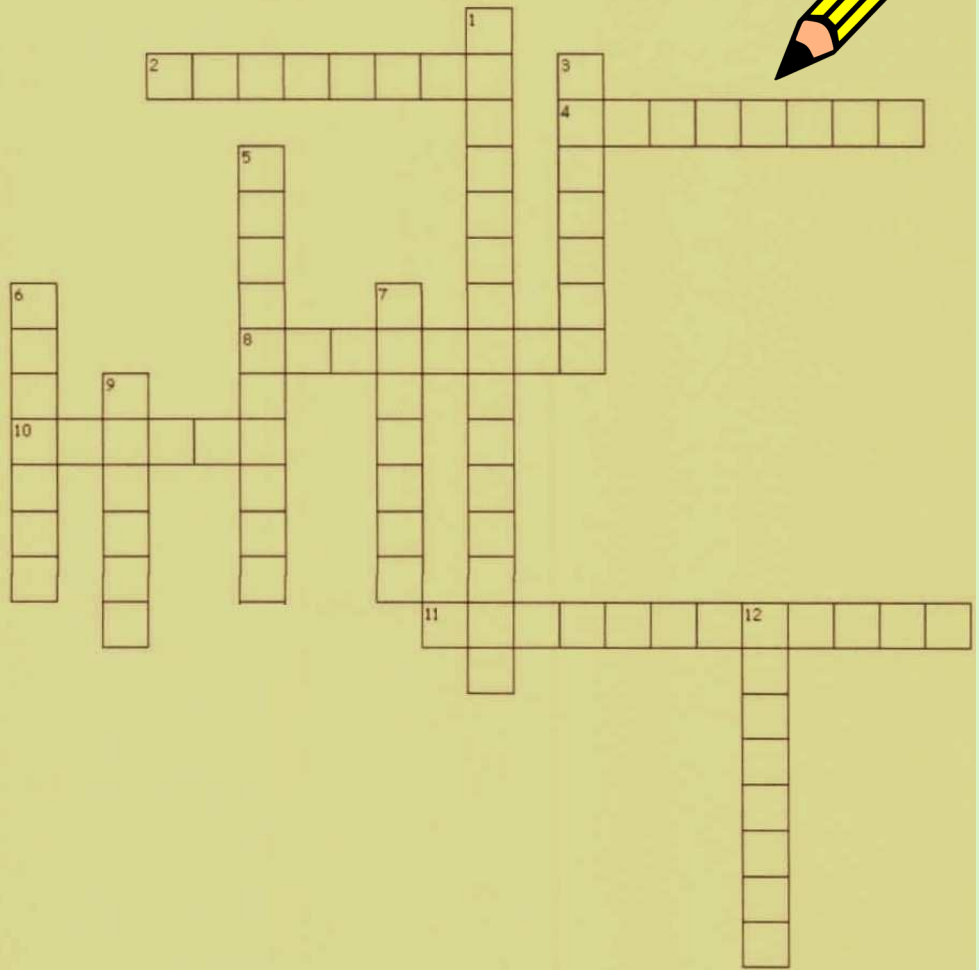


Across

2. Bones trapped in the intestines can result in a _____.
4. Known for its balm like qualities on burned skin, yet can cause vomiting and tremors in pets.
8. Found in temperate regions, these plants have become popular landscaping plants that are often used as a bonsai choice.
10. Large amounts of salt can produce excessive _____ and urination.
11. Onions and garlic can cause gastrointestinal irritation and _____ damage.

Down

1. Caffeine and chocolate contain substances called _____ which can lead to overstimulation.
3. Bones contain a lot of _____ which is very firming to stool.
5. A ubiquitous holiday decoration that may cause discomfort when ingested.
6. The cooking process makes bones more _____.
7. Milkweed is essential to the livelihood of the _____ butterfly, but is toxic to cats and dogs.
9. Many types of lilies can cause _____ failure in cat, yet are not toxic to dogs.
12. Milk and other milk-based products can cause _____ and digestive disruption.



The struggle is real...
Just say 'NO'
to table scraps.



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Holiday Pet Safety Tips

Chocolate & Nuts

Ingesting chocolate can result in agitation, vomiting, diarrhea, high heart rate, tremors, seizures, and even death. Some nuts can cause lethargy, fever, vomiting, tremors, joint stiffness and an inability to walk.

Grapes, Raisins, Avocados, Onions & Garlic.

Each can cause lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, and kidney failure.

Alcohol & Artificial Sweeteners

Alcohol may cause a host of dangerous symptoms including coma and seizures. Artificial sweeteners, such as Xylitol (a common chemical found in chewing gum) can cause liver failure and hypoglycemia.

Holiday Plants

Holly, mistletoe, and poinsettias may cause irritation, vomiting, diarrhea, and heart arrhythmia in both cats and dogs. Christmas trees, if not sturdy, can fall and cause harm, and the water beneath the tree can be full of harmful fertilizer.

Fatty Trimmings & Bones

Pets may experience digestive problems, including diarrhea and vomiting when eating fatty foods. Some foods can even lead to pancreatitis. Bones can cause perforations and constipation.

Electrical Cords & Packaging

If chewed, live electrical cords can cause burns, difficulty breathing, seizures and cardiac arrest. Beware of packaging, twist ties, etc. which are a hazard if swallowed.

Parties & Overstimulation

Some guests may be uncomfortable around your pets. Your pets might also be uncomfortable around groups of unfamiliar people. Keep a separate quiet place for pets during your celebrations.

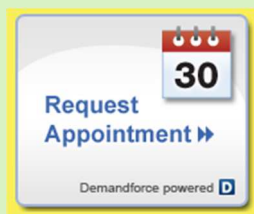
Holiday Decorations

Tinsel, ribbons, and similar decorations can cause cuts or obstructions in the intestinal tract.

Courtesy of:



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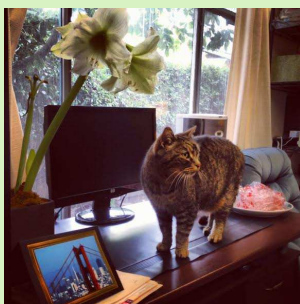
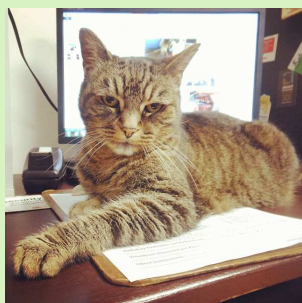


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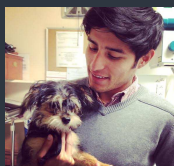
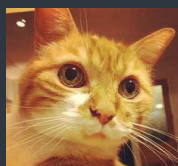
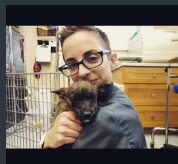


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