

# Dogs at Easter

## Chocolate

Chocolate poisoning is particularly common at this time of year, especially with the large amounts of Easter eggs that may be around your home. Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine, which can be poisonous to dogs, as well as most other animals, including cats, rodents and rabbits.

### **How much is too much chocolate?**

The seriousness of the poisoning will depend on the amount, type and quality of the chocolate eaten. The darker and more expensive chocolates are usually more poisonous because they contain higher concentrations of the chemical theobromine. White chocolate, on the other hand, contains only a very small amount of theobromine and although unlikely to cause serious effects, it can still make your dog sick.

### **What signs can it cause?**

As well as possibly causing vomiting and diarrhea, chocolate is a stimulant, so it can cause excitement, muscle twitching, tremors, fitting and can increase the heart rate and blood pressure.

## Hot cross buns

Grapes, raisins, currants and sultanas are all toxic to dogs and it is believed the dried forms of these fruits are more toxic than grapes. At this time of year, it is therefore important that hot cross buns are kept well away from your dogs.

### **How much is too much?**

It is not known why these fruits are toxic to dogs, or how much can be poisonous. Some dogs have eaten large quantities of this fruit and had no effects, while others have become unwell after very small amounts.

### **What signs can it cause?**

As well as possibly causing vomiting and diarrhoea, these fruits can cause kidney failure, which can sometime be delayed for 24 to 72 hours. Kidney failure may sometimes present as a decrease in urination, your dog may also appear dull, or show signs of increased or decreased thirst.

## What should I do if my dog eats chocolate or hot cross buns?

- Consult your local veterinary practice immediately
- It is important that your veterinary practice make an informed decision as to whether your dog needs to be clinically assessed or treated. Where possible, ensure that you tell them:
  - What your dog has eaten
  - How much they have eaten
  - When it was eaten

**Do not try and make your dog sick** - trying to do this can sometime cause other complications which can make your dog unwell

- See more at: <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health/dogs-at-easter/#sthash.2VhrzBNo.dpuf>