

Five Food Items You Should NOT Feed Your Dog

You know we are big believers in nutrition as one of the keys to having your dog live a healthy, happy and long life. Not just a happy life, but one full of energy and vitality.

Just as important as what you feed your dog are the things you should NOT feed your dog. Following is a list of five things that you should never feed your dog.

1. **Alcoholic Beverages.** Hopefully, this one should go without saying... Ethanol is the component in alcoholic beverages that can be toxic when an excessive amount is ingested. Pets are much smaller than us and can be highly affected by small amounts of alcohol. Exercise caution when drinks and pets are together. Toxicity can cause a wide variety of signs and symptoms, and may result in death. Signs may include odor of alcohol on the animal's breath, staggering, behavioral changes, excitement, depression, increased urination, slowed respiratory rate or cardiac arrest and death.
2. **Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Peaches and Plums.** Ingestion of large amounts of stems, seeds and leaves of these fruits can be toxic. They contain a cyanide type compound and signs of toxicity include apprehension, dilated pupils, difficulty breathing, hyperventilation and shock.
3. **Avocados.** The leaves, fruit, bark and seeds of avocados have all been reported to be toxic. The toxic compound in the avocado is 'persin,' which is a fatty acid derivative. Symptoms of toxicity include difficulty breathing, abdominal enlargement, abnormal fluid accumulations in the chest, abdomen and sac around the heart. The amount that needs to be ingested to cause signs is unknown. Do NOT feed your pet any component of the avocado.
4. **Baking Powder and Baking Soda.** Baking soda and baking powder are both leavening agents. A leavening agent is a common ingredient in baked goods that produces a gas causing batter and dough to rise. Baking soda is simply sodium bicarbonate. Baking powder consists of baking soda and an acid, usually a cream of tartar, calcium acid phosphate, sodium aluminum sulfate or a mixture of the three. Ingestion of large amounts of baking soda or baking powder can lead to electrolyte abnormalities (low potassium, low calcium and/or high sodium), congestive heart failure or muscle spasms.
5. **Chocolate.** Another that should, by now, hopefully go without saying... Chocolate, in addition to having a high fat content, contains caffeine and theobromine. These two compounds are nervous system stimulants and can be toxic to your dog in high amounts. The levels of caffeine and theobromine vary between different types of chocolate. For example, white chocolate has the lowest concentration of stimulants and baking chocolate or cocoa beans have the highest concentration. Depending on the type of chocolate ingested and the amount eaten, various problems can occur up to and including death

So to keep your dog healthy – avoid the bad stuff and feed them a superior diet.

Summer's Here – Is Your Pool Pet Safe?

Pool safety for pets is nearly identical as pool safety for children and farther than close supervision. It takes only a very brief distraction of only several seconds for a tragedy to occur, and with pets the tragedy could happen even faster as dogs usually can move much quicker than a child. A study on children showed that supervision failed in 69 percent of child drowning incidents.

With that said, pools can be a great source of fun and relief from the heat for you and your pets. Here are just a few things to consider:

- Many dogs love the water but don't assume they can swim naturally. NEVER throw a dog into the pool; he may panic and not be able to climb the slick sides to get out of the pool.
- Even if your dog was an excellent swimmer in his/her youth, as the age and become weaker they may be more prone to slipping and falling into a pool.
- Heat and sunlight are intensified around the pool. Watch for signs of overheating and get your dog into the shade or the air conditioning inside if you see that your dog is overheating.
- Do not let your dog drink the pool water. Chlorine in the water will make him/her sick.
- Along the same lines, chlorinated water may irritate your dog's eyes and skin. When the two of you are done playing in the pool, hose your dog down with fresh water to rinse the chlorine out of their fur and eyes.
- Consider layering as a safety feature. Start with the pool, make sure the pool has graduated sides so the dog can swim near the edge them 'walk' out of the pool. The next layer could be the addition of a floating pool alarm which will sound if the surface water is disturbed. And then finally a see-through pool fence with a self-closing and self-locking gate.

Bits & Pieces

Use caution in selecting chicken jerky treats - <http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/dogtreat.asp>

I have 2 large dogs, and was buying a large bag of Purina at Wal-Mart and was in line to checkout. The woman behind me asked if I had a dog? Duh? (is she kidding???). On impulse, I told her no I didn't have any dogs, I was starting The Purina Diet again. Although I probably shouldn't because I'd ended up in the hospital the last time. But I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way it works is to load your pants pockets with Purina nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so I was going to try it again. I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story, particularly a tall guy who was standing behind her.

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me? I told her no, I'd been sitting in the road scratching myself behind the ear and a car hit me. I thought the guy standing behind her was going to need help as he staggered to the door laughing.

Microsoft has expanded their i'm program to include Hotmail / MSN email. One of the organizations they have partnered with is the Humane Society of the United States, so you can help support them while sending your hundreds of joke emails every day! Click http://im.live.com/Messenger/IM/Home/?source=BAN_WL_Hotmail_300x125_Impactful to register your email account. Here's their description:

'Every time you use Windows Live™ Messenger or Windows Live Hotmail®, our free webmail service, we'll share a portion of our advertising revenue with some of the world's most effective social cause organizations. Exactly how much will we share with [our partner causes](#)? Well, that's up to you and the growing masses of registered i'm Initiative users. The more messages you send, the more we give.'

We spend all day sending emails to save the animals, right? Let's make those emails work TWICE as hard!!

On this page: http://im.live.com/Messenger/IM/Home/?source=BAN_WL_Hotmail_300x125_Impactful there's a column that says 'About the i'm Initiative.' At the bottom of that column, there is a link that says [Follow this link](#) if you already have a Hotmail account.' Click that and select the cause you want your emails and im's to benefit.

I Adopted Your Pet Today...

I adopted your pet today...
The one you left at the pound;
The one you had for ten years
And no longer wanted around.

I adopted your pet today...
Did you know that he's lost weight?
Did you know he's scared and depressed
And seems to have lost all faith?

I adopted your pet today...
He had fleas and a little cold;
Guess you don't care what shape he's in
- You abandoned him I am told.

I adopted your pet today...
Were you having a baby or moving away?
Did you suddenly develop allergies,
Or was there NO reason he couldn't stay?

I adopted your pet today...
He doesn't play or even eat much;
I guess he's very sad inside and
It'll take time for him to trust.

I adopted your pet today...
And here he is going to stay;
He's found his FOREVER home
And a warm bed in which to lay.

I adopted your pet today...
And shall give him all that he will need
- Patience, love, and security,
So he can forget your selfish deed.

IF YOUR DOG IS FAT, **YOU** ARE NOT GETTING ENOUGH EXERCISE!!



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Currently available at:

<http://www.hunterk9.com/site/870877/product/watso1>
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Do I Go Home Today?

By Sandi Thompson

So I thought I did the right thing,
When I chewed the bathroom rug.

They said I was out of control,
And would have to live outside,
This I did not understand
Although I tried and tried.

The walks stopped one by one,
They said they hadn't the time
I wish that I could change things,
I wish I knew my crime.

My life became so lonely,
In the backyard on a chain
I barked and barked all daylong
To keep from going insane

So they brought me to the Shelter,
But were embarrassed to say why
They said I caused an allergy,
And kissed me goodbye.

If I'd only had some classes,
When I was a little pup,
I wouldn't have been
So hard to handle
When I was all grown up.

"You only have one more day left"
I heard the worker say,
Does this mean I go home today?

My family brought me home today,
Cradled in their arms,
They said I was full of charms,

They played with me,
And laughed with me,
They showered me with toys,
I sure do love my family,
Especially the girls and boys,

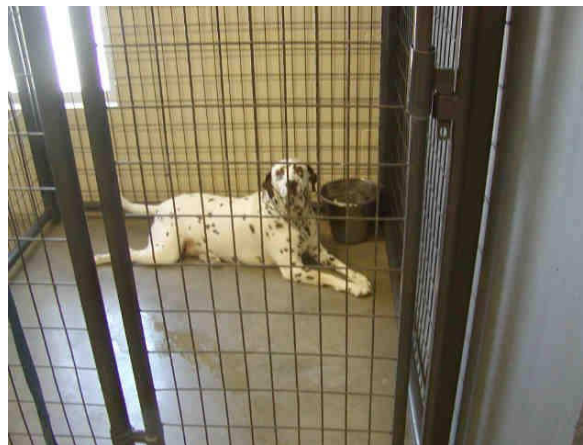
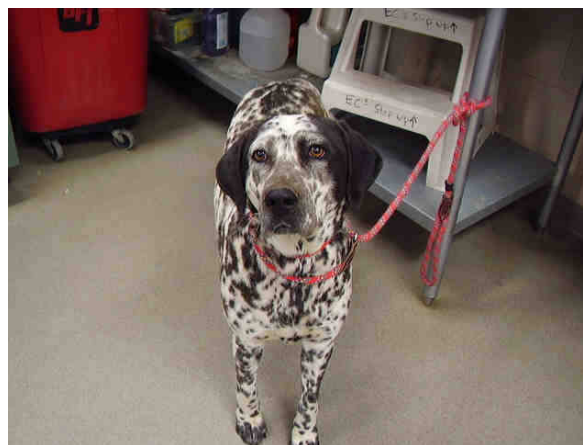
The children loved to feed me,
They gave me special treats,
They even let me sleep with them,
All snuggled in the sheets,

I used to go on walks,
Often several times a day
They even fought to hold the leash.
I'm very proud to say.

These are the things I can't forget,
A cherished memory.
I now live in a Shelter'
Without my family.

They used to laugh and praise me,
When I played with that old shoe.
But I didn't know the difference
Between the old one and the new.

The kids and I would grab a rag,
For hours we would tug,



A reminder for Foster & Adoptive Parents: We recently had one of the foster dogs get out of the house and disappeared. Unfortunately, the dog did NOT have a tag with its foster parents contact info. **PLEASE RIGHT NOW** – go make sure your dogs have an ID tag with your info – **two contact phone numbers** and **"REWARD – NEEDS MEDS"** at a minimum!!!

***** FOSTER HOMES DESPERATELY NEEDED *****

PLEASE, we need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes you probably would not have gotten your dog. **PLEASE** think about fostering a dog for Rescue so we can save lives like we saved your dog's life!! **PLEASE** give a warm home to a dog that can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and be ready for a new home. **PLEASE** help us and the dogs so that others might have a dog that is well socialized, trained, and ready to love. **PLEASE** think about this.... Dalmatians are everywhere and are literally dying to meet you or someone willing to give them a "spot" to be until their forever home comes along. **PLEASE** be a spot for us... and for them?

We thank you and you know any dog you help us save will be eternally grateful! PLEASE submit a foster application if you can possibly help us and them! PLEASE take your cookie... good boy/girl!

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatian

Lisa

4 Years Old, Black Spayed Female, Dal Mix Stray



Lisa doesn't care for having her picture taken, so these are the best I could do!!

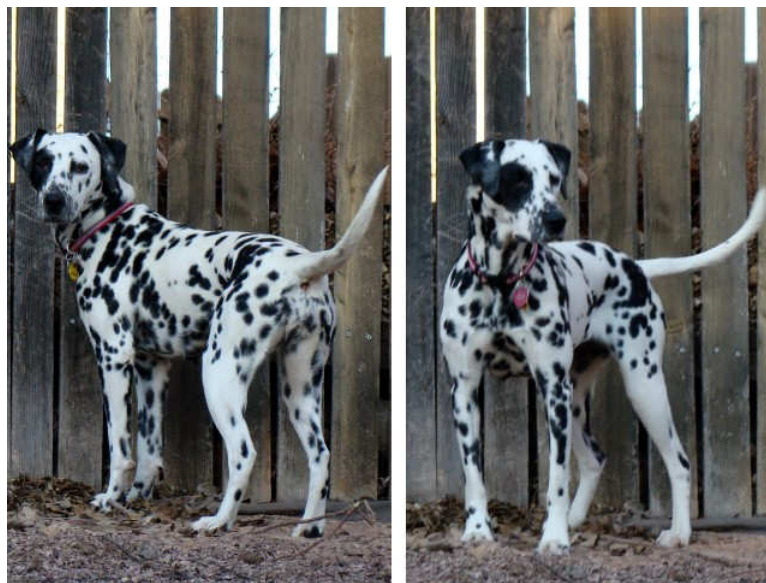
Lisa was surrendered with her sister to the shelter, and once they separated the pair, Lisa was scared and timid. But today Lisa is a different dog! She gets along great with other dogs and is friendly with everyone she meets. She is calm, sometimes "collects" things and takes them to her bed, but has never chewed or been destructive. Lisa is very receptive to loving and kindness, and is very loyal. She responds to playing, loves mealtime, and sits for treats and she learns quickly. Lisa could be happy in a home with other dogs or just being an only dog getting all the attention. She is currently in Colorado Springs. Little Lisa is a jewel!

Happy Beginnings Story

Millie (aka Britney)

It had been about a year and a half since we lost Rocky. For a while I'd been thinking about a new buddy for Megan, but wasn't sure she'd be okay with it. She's our 9.5 year old Dalmatian and is getting cranky. I received an email from a co-worker about a Dal who needed a home. Britney was in a foster home and needed to be moved to a new one. My husband, Dave, and I drove to Englewood late one night to pick Britney up. One look at that beautiful sweet girl and even my husband knew she was ours for good. We've renamed her now Millie. Dave says it was because she didn't look like a Britney and whatever she wants in the house she has Megan bark for so Dave calls her Millie Vanilli. She is just the sweetest girl who just wags her tail all the time and wants to love and play. Millie and Megan get along beautifully. They spend their days now keeping the squirrels in our back yard properly exercised! Millie is getting ready to start agility training this month. Thank you to Marti Ludwig and Beth White for bringing this sweet girl into our home.

– Dave and Cheryl Bingham and Megan
Colorado Springs, CO



My partner and I just recently adopted Hudson from Dalmatian Rescue, and we are thrilled with him! We had the chance to meet two other lovely dogs at Hudson's foster home, Becca, and Ali, both waiting for someone to adopt them. We'd have adopted more dogs, but one is our limit. I'd like to tell people these dogs have been in foster care for a while, and someone needs to give these two little peaches a forever home. They are CUTE as can be, playful, and great with people! So – don't miss out – contact Dalmatian Rescue and go get 'em!

– Mary Blichmann, Silt, CO

Please don't forget... if you haven't sent in your Happy Beginnings Story yet, why not do it right now while it's fresh in your mind! It's never too late to see your story in print!!

NewSpots is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots will be the 25th of the previous month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible!!

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<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>