# Don’t Feed the Animals

Grub we eat can be toxic to pets

March 5, 2018 By Kate Ferguson

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Many foods humans chow down with impunity can mean death for a cat, dog or other beloved animal companion that shares our homes.

According to the ASPCA, individuals should avoid feeding all pets chocolate, coffee, caffeine, milk and dairy-based products, nuts, raw or undercooked meat, eggs, bones, salt or salty foods (such as potato chips, pretzels and popcorn), the stems, leaves, peels, fruit and seeds of citrus plants, and beverages, foods or products that contain alcohol.

Additional edibles that pose a danger to our animal friends include the sweetener xylitol and yeast dough. Avocado is mainly a problem for birds, rabbits and more unusual and exotic pets, such as horses, cattle, goats, sheep, giraffes, yaks, deer and even some kangaroos.

What’s more, anything from a coconut—including flakes, flesh or water—may upset their stomach. Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in animals, and onions, garlic and chives can irritate their gastrointestinal tract and damage red blood cells.

The best bet is not to take any chances. Give your animals food specifically created for them to eat.

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