

“Healthy & Helpful Hints for your K-9 Pals”

- 🐾 Foods toxic to your dog: There are some human foods which can be extremely toxic to dogs. These are chocolate, onions (even cooked ones that are mixed in with other foods; dried, minced onion, onion powder or onion salt can also be dangerous), and black licorice. In more than just minimal quantities, turkey can also be harmful. Please help your dog avoid all contact with these foods.
- 🐾 Wet noses: Many people believe that a cool, wet nose is the best indicator of a dog’s health. This is not necessarily true. Instead, check for pink gums, clear eyes, and a normal body temperature.
- 🐾 Play Dough: At all costs, keep homemade play dough, the kind made with flour & salt, away from your dog. The salt content is so high that it will cause severe dehydration, which can lead to brain hemorrhage and death.
- 🐾 Macadamia Nuts are a NO NO: They may be popular party fare, but they are no fun for domestic canines. If ingested, macadamia nuts can cause muscular weakness, depression, vomiting, lack of coordination, tremors, abdominal pain and muscle stiffness.
- 🐾 Cleaning tennis balls: To get grungy tennis balls clean, put them on the top rack of the dishwasher and wash them along with your dishes. Or, you can throw them in the laundry with dog toys as well.
- 🐾 Grapes & raisins: Most dogs love grapes, especially frozen ones; some like raisins, too. Be careful not to feed your dog very many of either, though. There have been cases reported of dogs experiencing vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, lethargy, and abdominal pain & kidney dysfunction from ingesting large quantities (over 9 ounces); some have even died.
- 🐾 Red eyes: If your dog develops **red eyes**, get veterinary attention as soon as possible. Red eyes can be an indication of a number of different conditions, none of which bode well for the dog: conjunctivitis, keratitis, eye ulcers, ocular dermatitis, cherry eye, uveitis, glaucoma or bleeding in the anterior chamber of the eye.
- 🐾 Ear Wash: Mix a solution of ½ alcohol (preferably the 90% kind) and ½ white vinegar. Soak two cotton balls then microwave them about 10 seconds – check to see that they are not too hot. Use one cotton ball per ear – squeeze it into the ear and & poke it in a bit, put the ear flap down and massage down below the ear opening. Any gunk down in the ear canal will be loosened by the procedure. Let the dog shake out the excess. You can then use the cotton ball to wipe the flap area. Use regularly to prevent ear infections, especially after the dog has been swimming. Do not use in ears that are already infected, as mixture will burn open sores.
- 🐾 Apples: Apples are good for dogs, as are other fruits & vegetables. However, apple **seeds** are **NOT** good for any animals. The seeds of members of the apple family contain cyanogenic glycosides. If the seed hull is broken, such as by chewing on the seed, a cyanide compound will be released. If consumed in large enough quantity, such seeds can be fatal. If you want to give your dog apples, Great! But take out the seeds first!