

## **Dangerous foods for dogs.**

Dogs generally aren't renowned for having a discerning palate or making smart choices when it comes to food. Indeed they often get away with eating all sorts of disagreeable and sometimes risky things. There are however a range of 'food' items that can be especially dangerous for our goofy, furry friends. It's our job as pet owners to be careful about what sorts of yummy (or yucky) stuff they can access. Dogs prone to raiding rubbish are especially at risk. Human left overs and rubbish items that still smell like food can cause all sorts of problems. BBQ's present especial appeal for four legged gluttons.

- **Skewers** can smell and taste wonderful but if swallowed can puncture the internal organs and often have to be removed surgically.
- **Corn cobs** are lovely and buttery but are perfect for getting lodged in tubular intestines – vomiting, dehydration pain and more surgery.
- **Onions** (often fried in meaty juices) – if eaten in sufficient quantity these can cause red blood cell destruction and make your pooch very sick. The same is true for **garlic**.
- **Bones** are absolutely delicious and fun to crunch and gnaw. However they can be broken down to smaller bits and swallowed. This is another potential intestinal obstruction – more surgery. Also bone marrow is very fatty. We often see cases of pancreatitis (a life threatening and very painful condition) straight after a dog has been given bones. As a general rule use bones that are bigger than the dog's head and remove them once they have taken off any meaty bits and cartilage. Avoid bones in overweight or obesity prone pets or any dog with a history of pancreatitis.
- Anything potentially **mouldy**, for example old bread or compost, can cause serious liver intoxication. This generally results in vomiting and jaundice.
- Some other odd things we've treated for or removed from dog's intestines include fishing lines with and without hooks, bits of string, rubber toys and balls, unshelled macadamia nuts.

