Our dogs are our friends and members of our family; it’s only natural that we would want to share our treats and dinner leftovers with them. Human food can be a great supplement to your dog’s diet, but some common human foods are highly toxic to dogs. Read on to find out what foods you should not feed your dog and to learn the symptoms of a dog who has ingested these foods.

Onions  
Onions, garlic, chives, and leeks can destroy your dog’s red blood cells. Symptoms include weakness, anemia, vomiting, lack of appetite, dullness, and breathlessness.

Caffeine  
Caffeine poisoning can be fatal. Symptoms include restlessness, heart palpitations, rapid breathing, and muscle tremors.

Grapes   
Yes, those seemingly innocent little fruits are highly toxic to dogs and just a few grapes (or raisins!) can make your dog very ill. The most common symptom is repeated vomiting. Ingesting a large amount of grapes can cause kidney failure.

Macadamia Nuts  
Many nuts are not good for dogs, but macadamia nuts can be fatal. Symptoms include muscle tremors, weakness, paralysis of the hind quarters, high temperature, and high heart rate.

Chocolate  
We all know chocolate is toxic to dogs, but did you know that different types of chocolate have different toxicity levels? Theobromine, the toxic agent in chocolate, is found even in white chocolate, but the highest levels are found in dark and unsweetened chocolate. Symptoms include excessive thirst, diarrhea, tremors, seizures, and vomiting.

Prescription Medications  
The most common culprit in poison cases is prescription medication. Treat your dog like you would a child and keep your prescriptions safely out of reach.

If you suspect that your dog has ingested any of these foods, and you witness any of these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian immediately. Of course, the best course of action is to prevent your pooch from having access to these foods in the first place.

- Emily Corrie, Deep Creek Veterinary Services