

## Animal Facts

# Chocolate for Dogs

### VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE IS NOT FOR THE DOGS!

Give chocolate to loved ones on Valentine's Day and you could end up poisoning them! That is, if the loved ones are your pets. Small amounts of theobromine, an ingredient in chocolate, can cause vomiting and restlessness in pets. Larger doses can be fatal.

While most pet owners expect a dog to develop an upset stomach after eating a large amount of chocolate, few realize its toxic potential. The lethal dose of theobromine depends on the size of the dog and the type of chocolate. Ounce for ounce, baking chocolate has 6 to 9 times as much of the substance as milk chocolate does.

Although a very small amount of chocolate may not harm some dogs, it's safest to avoid giving it to them at all. If an accident occurs, consult with your veterinarian immediately.

So, if you have any chocolates left over from Valentine's Day, save them for your two-legged sweetie!



*Dr. Jay Thrush is the owner of Brandon Hills Veterinary Clinic and we thank him for this information.*

## Animal Facts

# Lyme Disease

A blood test may be advised by your vet to see if your dog has been exposed to Lyme disease. Often this test is part of your dog's annual heartworm test. If the test indicates exposure, further testing and possible treatment is indicated.

**Talk to your veterinarian for further advice and to discuss your dog's potential risk level.**