

# Why is chocolate bad for animals but not humans?

Chocolate contains theobromine, which is an alkaloid chemical like caffeine. It causes vomiting, diarrhoea and – in high enough doses – even heart failure and seizures. The symptoms of chocolate poisoning are the same for humans as for dogs, but dogs need a much smaller dose. Dogs are carnivores, and their metabolism hasn't evolved efficient enzymes to deal with as wide a range of plant chemicals as ours. Dogs are about three times more sensitive to chocolate than humans per kilo of body weight, so two 120-gram bars of dark chocolate are enough to make a 20-kilogram dog ill, while half a kilogram could be fatal.

