

Avocados Are Dangerous to Dogs

The fruit's leaves, seeds and bark contain a dog-unfriendly toxin.

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While there are many foods that both humans and dogs can enjoy, there are others that — while perfectly safe and healthy for people — can be dangerous to our animal companions. One example of this is the avocado.

“Avocado leaves, fruit, seeds and bark contain a toxic principle known as persin,” according to Dana Farbman, CVT, of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. “The Guatemalan variety, which is the most common variety found in stores, appears to be the most problematic.”

The primary concern in dogs is gastrointestinal irritation, including vomiting and diarrhea. Typically, these effects are seen in dogs who have scavenged on significant quantities of fruit or branches.

If you suspect that your dog has eaten avocado — or any other potentially dangerous substance — call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center's emergency hotline at (888) 426-4435 for 24-hour telephone assistance.

For more information on poison prevention, visit the APCC online.