

Poison Pudding?

COULD JELLO BRAND CHOCOLATE PUDDING POPS BE TOXIC TO DOGS?...

THE ANSWER IS A SURPRISING **YES**

There are many different toxins that can affect our pets. Many of these are also toxic to humans so we know to be careful with pet exposure. However, some agents are poisonous to pets while being non-toxic to humans, and it is known

these chemicals that present a unique danger. A few well-known examples are dark chocolate or ibuprofen; a more recent addition to the list is raisins & grapes.



A new toxin that falls into the “good-for-two-feet-but-bad-for-four” is a common sugar-substitute called xylitol. The ASPCA Poison Control Center has reported a growing number of dogs that have been intoxicated by eating xylitol and suffered from depression, wobbliness, seizures and death.

Xylitol is a sweetener found in certain sugar-free chewing gums, candies, pudding and other products. According to the ASPCA veterinarians, dogs ingesting foods containing xylitol may develop a sudden drop in blood sugar levels resulting in depression, loss of consciousness, and seizures. Some of them may develop bleeding problems and go in to liver failure.

The amount of xylitol in sugar-free products varies widely but one brand of sugar-free puddings cups contains enough xylitol to poison a 100-pound dog! In an alarming trend the label says “Sweetened with Splenda®” (Splenda® is considered safe for dogs). Despite the label claim xylitol was the number two ingredient – the active ingredient in Splenda® (sucralose) was way down the ingredient list. *One pudding cup contains 7 grams of xylitol – enough poison to harm 8 small dogs!*

There is no known antidote to xylitol but intensive supportive care has been shown to assist these dogs. After known ingestion of this chemical, it is important to seek medical attention for your pet. Also, it is vital to realize products safe for humans are not always safe for pets. When in doubt ask!