

IS CHEESE BAD FOR DOGS?

While not considered toxic, cheese should be moderately consumed, (and strictly low fat-varieties cheese) by dogs, as it is highly enriched with fats. This can cause digestive upsets, weight gain (obesity), and even pancreatitis due to its lactose intolerance nature and other dietary insensitivities.

Have you ever scarfed down a slice of cheese, and your dog is longingly eyeing your piece of pie, curiosity might have killed you. Questions like; whether or not dogs can eat cheese. Or whether you're just curious about cheese's side effects on dogs. Even though cheese can be a nourishing treat for humans; it makes sense to question whether it might also benefit your pet. Here's a breakdown of the effects of sharing cheese with your pet.

What does cheese do to a dog?

Cheese effects on dogs are mostly negative, a reason why the consumption of cheese by dogs is not recommended unless necessary. Here are the effects of cheese consumption by dogs:

1. Weight gains (obesity)

Cheese tends to be **highly saturated with fats resulting in mass weight gain, also referred to as obesity**, which acts as a soft ground for other infections exposing the dog to health conditions. **It also triggers pancreatitis in dogs prone to it.**

1. Lactose intolerance

Intake of cheese (highly lactose intolerant) by dogs **causes digestive upsets as they may not have enough lactase. The lack of enzymes and lactose needed to digest the sugar in dairy products leads to health conditions.** Here are the health conditions caused by cheese;

1. Digestion issues
2. Diarrhea
3. Vomiting
4. Flatulence
5. Gas and bloating

1. Sodium content

Cheese contains a lot of sodium, which can cause health problems if consumed excessively. It is most likely to interfere with the kidneys leading to kidney problems and even failure.

1. Consumption of toxic contents

Cheese contains some other content toxic to dogs, such contents include, garlic, onions, chives, and molds.

Are there any positive impacts of cheese consumption on dogs?

Yes, even though cheese has a lot of negative impacts on dogs; it also has some benefits coming with it, though only when taken with precaution. Cheese is a source of calcium, protein, and essential medication. Below is its positive impact on dogs:

1. Cheese is highly rich in protein, calcium, vitamin A, and fatty acids, which are essentially good for a dog's overall health conditions.
1. Cheese can be used as medical aid to hasten the process of medicine consumption by dogs, as dogs are motivated by cheese making it also useful for training and positive reinforcement.
2. It also has potential health benefits as research shows it can reduce acids responsible for tooth cavities.

Here is a statistics table of cheese effects on dogs:

Effect Estimate % of dogs affected severity remark

Enjoyment 90% positive High value for training treats

Lactose intolerance 30%-50% Moderate to severe Symptoms include diarrhea, bloating, vomiting

Weight gain 20%-30% moderate Due to high fats and calories

Allergic reaction 10% Moderate to severe Allergy symptoms; ear infection

Pancreatitis 5% severe Weight gain

Sodium 10%-15% moderate Kidney problems

CONCLUSION

While cheese is not considered entirely toxic, and can be moderately enjoyed by some dogs. It is advisable to be aware of its potential risks, like lactose intolerance, rich fat content, and high sodium levels. Monitoring dog's reaction after intake.

And remember before deciding whether to give your dog an occasional cheese snack, always consult your veterinarian first. They'll be able to guide you on if it's an appropriate treat and if it

is, what kind of cheese would be best for them. Always remember, that cheese should never account for more than 10% of your dog's daily caloric intake. Too many calories often lead to weight gain, which exposes dogs to health conditions.

FAQs

How do I know my dog is lactose intolerant?

If its body reacts after moderate consumption of cheese, showing signs like; diarrhoea, bloating, and vomiting