

# Dog care

# Welcome to Barkode

Barkode was developed for all dog parents around the world to help them navigate all of different informations about dog care. That's why we prepared this Dog care handbook for all new and existing dog owners, with tips about dog care from puppy to senior years and everything in between!

I hope these tips will change the life for you, who are reading this and your dog, for the better!

Neža  
CO-FOUNDER OF BARKODE

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# Dog Care

Are you thinking of getting a dog, but you are scared of all the work that dog care and training entails? Maybe you already own a dog or several but still have some queries about how to best care for them? Dogs are probably the highest-maintenance pets out there, and looking after them is a big responsibility. However, it's nothing that willing owners can't handle with a proper diet, some exercise, basic obedience training, and a lot of TLC (tender and loving care :)

Hopefully, this helpful guide will answer all your questions and help you become the best parent to your precious pup!



# The Basic Needs of a Dog

To survive, dogs need food, water, and shelter like all living things. But to lead a happy and healthy life, a dog requires physical care, exercise, and nurture from its parents, too.

## Food and Water

Dogs can get all the nutrition they need from high-quality commercial dog food available at stores and pet shops. Plus, they can eat human food as well (even though they won't and can't eat all kinds of human food), so no special requirements here.

However, every trustworthy dog-care guide warns about the dangers of overfeeding your pup. Dogs will always be hungry or look at you with those big, sad eyes like they haven't eaten in days.

However, owners must limit their meals to avoid obesity and heart problems. Puppies need to be fed four times a day, but once they reach six months, a meal a day (or two smaller ones) is sufficient for a well-balanced diet. Dogs should always have clean, fresh water available from spotless water bowls.



**Here's another basic dog-care tip:** avoid plastic water bowls and go for stainless steel ones. These are more durable, and they prevent bacteria buildup.



**Barkode tip:** like humans, dogs can also benefit from high quality food supplements. Lucky for you, we developed 3 different ones for different needs.

## Space

Unlike caring for cats, which generally prefer to be left alone, doggies are social animals who love spending time with their people. Certain circumstances may require a canine to live outside, but most pups are indoor dwellers.

One of the most fundamental dog-care facts is that your canine cuties should have a space in the house to call their own. It can be a kennel or a soft dog bed, as long as it's clean and it's a spot where your pet feels safe and sound.

Depending on the breed, dogs enjoy sleeping and can sleep anywhere between 12 to 20 hours a day. They need a comfortable space to do this where they can rest undisturbed.

## Exercise

Dogs are active pets who love tugging, fetching, chasing or plain old running around. Exercises not only help dogs' burn calories and stay healthy, but it also keeps them busy and stops the development of problematic behavior. Getting a quality retractable dog leash for long walks combined with a quality dog harness or attractive dog collar should be on your "to buy" list before you get your dog.



**Pro tip:** If your dog has a fun and safe chewable toy, he won't have to chew through your favorite pair of shoes.

## Grooming

Like other pets, dogs also need grooming. Daily dog care involves regular brushing, teeth and ear cleaning, checking for parasites and nail trimming (when needed). You can do this yourself, at the vet or hire professional groomers, but some basics are needed.

If your dog is well-behaved, a regular bath can get rid of odors and bring you and your pet closer. There are plenty of quality dog shampoo options depending on your dog's fur and needs. Plus, it will help cut down on the costs of owning a dog.

## Training

Both puppies and adult dogs must be house-trained. Even if they've been potty-trained, older pups could benefit from a refresher course, especially if they are in a new environment.

One of the most important things about training is consistency in the commands you use and the positive reinforcements and rewards you offer. Sticking to dog-care rules might be tricky (again, those big, sad eyes — who can resist them), but it's worth it in the long run.

Obedience and house training are more than simply teaching your dog a few tricks and commands. It's also about learning essential life skills, socializing, avoiding problematic behavior, and providing mental stimulation. Experts even recommend taking obedience classes with your dog to strengthen your relationship and form a more lasting bond.

# Dog Health Care Tips

Dogs are healthy animals in general, and if their basic needs are met, owners shouldn't encounter any serious medical issues. Still, there are a few things responsible pet parents should be attentive to regarding their pooch and his health.

## Don't overfeed your dog

It will significantly impact their health and happiness

Overweight dogs are at increased risk of metabolic abnormalities, cardiovascular disease, joint diseases, a lowered immune system, and many other health problems. They also are less mobile and can't run, play, or do other activities as much as they'd like. Do your pet a favor, feed them the amount recommended by their vet, and don't give in to those puppy dogs' eyes when they ask for more!

## Touch your dog's nose

Your dog's nose should feel wet. The level of moisture will vary between dogs and by the time of year, but a healthy dog will have a cool and slightly wet nose because dogs secrete sweat through their nose to cool down.

## Make annual vet appointments

Let the experts examine your dog regularly to screen them for any health issues and to provide you with the best, personalized information to keep your precious pup healthy for many years.

## Make a "pet first aid" kit

Accidents and emergencies happen and being prepared with all the essentials to help your dog is a crucial step in being a responsible pet owner. This is especially important if you take your dog out hiking or camping, whenever you may be far away from help. A DIY pet first aid kit is something every dog parent should have.

## Get pet insurance

Emergency and unexpected accidents and illnesses can cost a lot of money. With as many as a third of pets needing emergency care per year, this can quickly become a financial burden. Pet insurance can help to cover these unexpected costs, prescription medications, long-term health conditions, and more, making it an important investment for the furry members of your family.

## Brush your dog's teeth

Brushing your dog's teeth is often overlooked, but hugely important to their overall health and avoiding expensive dental treatments in the future. Make this a part of their normal routine and make sure to use toothpaste made specifically for dogs. With a little bit of time and training, teeth brushing can be a fun activity for your pet every day!

## Have an emergency plan in place

It's not pleasant to think about, but you must have a plan for your dog in place should anything happen to you. Make a list of important information about your dog's lifestyle including how often they're fed, how much they're fed, medications, their vet's phone number, etc. Give copies of this to someone in your life that could take care of your dog in the case of an emergency. It's also worth your time to ask around and make sure you have at least one or two people who live close by that could help your dog on short notice.

## Play with Purpose

When petting and playing with your dog, especially when they are young, intentionally play with their feet, ears, and mouth. By doing things like touching their feet, toes, and nails during a positive play experience, you will desensitize them to being touched in these areas when it's time for nail trims. Looking in their ears and mouths and getting them used to being handled in this way will make it much easier for your vet to examine your dog when they go in for checkups. This will make your vet's job easier, your pup will be less stressed during their exam, and your vet will be more likely to catch any abnormalities if there is something wrong with your dog.



## Keep your trash secured

Dogs are drawn to the delicious smell of your trash and may eat things that are toxic, harmful, or not digestible, so make sure your trash is secure. Ingestion of foreign objects or toxic substances could lead to costly emergency surgeries and even death.

## Give your dog a safe space

Have a temperate area of your home with your dog's bed or blanket, some toys, and a water bowl, where your dog feels safe and can easily take naps during the day. This can help your dog to self-soothe during stressful situations, like parties, a baby crying, or thunderstorms. If your dog was crate trained as a rescue puppy or when joining your family, keeping their crate open and available even after they no longer need it for training may provide them with a perfect place just for them that they'll love to have.

## Lock up household toxins

Always keep your household chemicals, such as cleaners and pesticides, out of reach from your dog. Many clever dogs can and will get into products kept under the sink or in the garage. Try using baby-proof locks to seal cabinets with toxic products.

## Regularly wash your dog's things

Germ, dirt, pollen, and more end up on your dog's bedding, soft toys, and blankets. Make sure you're washing these items weekly to keep them fresh and clean for your dog. If your dog suffers from seasonal allergies, this can be especially helpful in reducing its pollen exposure.

## Keep your dog away from human food

Many human foods, such as chocolate, avocados, or onions, are toxic to dogs and can have serious ramifications for their health. Keep human food out of reach and be especially careful with gum and candies, as many contain xylitol which is a sugar-like substance toxic to dogs. Don't feed your dog human foods on purpose unless recommended by your veterinarian or unless following a human food diet, prepared by a specialist for dog nutrition. Some human foods, like plain chicken, canned pumpkin, or plain rice may be recommended intentionally by your vet for specific reasons such as digestive upset, and diarrhea, to help hide oral medication or as highly motivating training treats in small quantities. In these instances "human food" may be appropriate for your dog, but they certainly don't need to lick your dinner plate clean or eat your leftovers.

## Walk your dog for both their health and happiness

Regular walks provide many benefits for your dog, including preventing boredom, helping the digestive tract, keeping them at a healthier weight, and helping them to burn off excess energy. By giving them a constructive outlet, you may find bad behaviors, like chewing, barking, or digging, decrease too.

## Fight boredom by adding variety

Break up your dog's normal routine by adding in extra walks or outings. Take them to a dog-friendly place or drive in for a change of scenery. Take them on errands with you and switch up their toys to keep them mentally stimulated.

## Challenge your dog mentally

Just like us, dogs need plenty of mental stimulation to stay happy and healthy. Give your dog a puzzle toy, teach them new tricks, and play new games with them to keep them engaged. Puzzle toys are a fantastic way to give your dog something fun to do when you can't devote 100% of your attention to them.

## Slowing down a super eater

If your dog or puppy eats their meals very quickly they increase their risk of having stomach issues or upsets that may lead to vomiting. Slowing down your dog's eating is good for their digestive health and can be done easily. One option is to buy a puzzle feeder from a pet store or online. Alternatively, a cheap easy solution is just to put a large tennis ball in their bowl. Both the ball and puzzle toy will work similarly making your dog have to work around the inedible obstacle to eat their meal.

## Exercise together

Race your dog in the park, try dog yoga, climb stairs with your dogs, or take them on an adventurous hike. You'll both reap the benefits of exercise as you have fun together.



**Pro tip:** you can also feed your dog his meal during his training. You can take it with you on a walk and feed him a little everytime he does something right!

# Tips for Taking Care of Your Dog

## **Provide A Protected And Clean Living Environment For Your Dog.**

Shelter from the elements and hazards, as well as good hygiene, are basic to a quality life.

## **Always Keep Fresh Water Available.**

Maintaining optimal hydration is important for health and energy.

## **Feed a quality diet and prevent obesity.**

Overweight humans and animals can adversely affect health in many ways. Follow the dietary recommendations that your veterinarian will make according to the nutritional needs of your dog, based on size, age, level of activity, and breed. Remember to provide healthy treats rather than table scraps, as rewards.

## **Have your pet examined by a veterinarian regularly.**

Your veterinarian will provide you with information on vaccination schedules, deworming, and external parasite control. Keep a copy of your pet's vaccination records in your home or with you when you travel. Contact your veterinarian if you believe that your pet may be ill, or injured, or if something just doesn't seem right. Your veterinarian is the expert on keeping your dog healthy. Work as a team with him or her.

## **Provide ample opportunities to exercise.**

Make sure your dog gets the regular exercise needed to enable it to be fit. By being in shape, your dog will be more capable of participating in the activities that it enjoys.

## **Communicate With Your Dog And Develop A Relationship.**

Dogs are social creatures and they need to interact with their owner. Quality time will help you get to know your dog and understand particular needs that it might have, as well as enhance your ability to recognize early signs of an illness that could be developing. In addition, time spent developing a relationship will help prevent many undesirable behavioral patterns.

## **Train Your Dog To Follow The Simple Commands.**

Puppy and dog training classes can be very helpful. The better your dog is at following basic and necessary commands, the greater the chances are that your dog will live a safe and long life.

## **Practice Reproductive Control.**

If you do not intend to create puppies, spaying or neutering is a great option. If you plan to breed your dog or are opposed to spaying and neutering for other reasons, take appropriate measures to prevent mismatings. Consult with your veterinarian regarding other available options. There are too many shelter dogs already!

## **Dental Care Is Very Important.**

Many breeds are prone to gum disease, which can have serious implications. Infection resulting from this condition leads to premature tooth loss, and can commonly cause infections in major organs, including the heart valves.

## **Don't Overlook Grooming And Nail Trimming.**

Long-coated dogs are prone to developing Mats and ice balls in their hair. Overgrown nails are common in elderly dogs and can make it more difficult for them to walk. In addition, such nails are much more prone to breaking, which can be quite painful.

## Spayed Dog Care

All responsible owners should consider having their pets fixed to stop backyard breeding and unwanted pets ending up in animal shelters.

Female dogs should undergo surgery between five and ten months of age. With male dogs, on the other hand, it depends on the size.

Smaller dog breeds are neutered around six months of age, while bigger breeds should wait until they are fully grown, unless your veterinarian says otherwise, before they are eligible for this procedure.

Deciding to have your pet neutered or spayed is the hard part. Neutered dog care, on the other hand, is pretty straightforward:

You need to find a quiet, warm spot where your pet can recover from the anesthesia unless staying at the vet clinic overnight.

Monitor the incision and — most importantly — make sure that your pet doesn't cause more traumas by biting, licking, or scratching the wound. In other words, keep the cone on, no matter how silly it makes your dog look. Also, check the area around the incision twice a day for signs of infection.

An indispensable part of post-neuter dog care is limiting food and water intake, as well as any strenuous activity for at least two weeks after the surgery. After this period, your doggie's appetite and behavior will return to normal.



**Don't trust everything you hear. Pets won't get fat because they've been spayed or neutered. They will if you don't provide the right food and exercise.**

# Special Care

From puppies to seniors, some canines are more demanding than others.

## Senior Dog Care

As dogs become older, there are a couple of considerations that owners should make:

Make sure your senior dog is on a proper diet. Older dogs are not as physically active as younger ones, making obesity a real issue among elderly canines. Feed your aging doggies fewer calories to prevent them from gaining too much weight.

Even though they are not as active, older dogs still need exercise. And while they can't fetch and run like puppies anymore, you should still include regular walks in your elderly dog care routine.

Don't forget about grooming and dental care. Dogs' coats lose their sheen and shine the older they get, which means that it's the parents' job to stop tangles and the formation of dry, flaky, and irritated skin. Oral care becomes even more critical with elderly dogs. If teeth brushing and dental treatments don't work, make an appointment with a professional to have their teeth cleaned at least once a year.

Geriatric dog care includes comfort, too. Elderly dogs suffer from arthritis and joint issues, making it harder for them to move or jump. Soft bedding, comfy cushions, and easy access to its favorite spots, as well as to food and water, will make your aging pet's life much easier.

Be patient. Older dogs are slower, and they often lose their hearing and vision. This results in them relying even more on their owner's attention for their mental and emotional health.



**Barkode tip:** check out our Mobility soft chews! They are a great daily supplement for senior dogs, that can help with their overall mobility! They are easy to dose and feed, and developed as a gourmet treat!

## How to Take Care of a Dog in Heat

How your female dog reacts while she's in heat varies from pet to pet. Some may become lethargic, while others get agitated. Be patient with your dog, keep an eye on her when you go outside (no off-the-leash walks), and make sure she's well-fed.

Dogs typically go into heat twice a year, each period lasting for about three to four weeks. Female canines usually bleed for the first two weeks, so this might be a good time to keep them off the furniture. Otherwise, invest in doggie pants and diapers.

## Pregnant Dog Care

Luckily, there isn't much we humans need to do when taking care of our pregnant canine. Keep your pet on a well-balanced diet and gradually increase her calorie intake. More food means more weight, so don't neglect the importance of exercise.

Short walks after 30 days of pregnancy should be enough to stop your dog from gaining too many pounds. Regular vet visits are another must for a healthy pregnancy.

## Pregnant Dog Care and Delivery

Dogs have an instinct when it comes to giving birth and looking after their young. All owners are required to do is provide a warm and cozy room for the little ones and make sure that the mommy feels comfortable and safe. Of course, certain complications may arise. If the birth lasts for longer than 24 hours without any puppies, or the mother is becoming lethargic and starts to vomit, call the vet immediately.

## How to Take Care of a Puppy

Few things in life can bring you as much joy as a small puppy. With that in mind, taking care of baby dogs should be one of the easiest and most enjoyable tasks you'll ever have.

To thrive, puppies require proper nutrition, training, exercise, and lots and lots of attention.

Puppies also need to get vaccinated to prevent the development of diseases. This is particularly important, seeing as many vaccine-preventable diseases could affect small doggies, some of which could spread to humans.

## How to Take Care of a Dog with Parvo

One of the most common diseases that regular vaccination can prevent is canine parvoviral enteritis, i.e., parvo. There is a treatment in the form of antibiotics and plasma transfusions to boost the immune system. Still, even with meticulous care and medicine, your puppy may not survive.

If your dog has parvo, make sure it's isolated from other pets, as this is a highly contagious disease that spreads incredibly quickly. Keep it hydrated, provide round-the-clock care and monitoring, and hope for the best.

## Emergency Dog Care

What qualifies as an emergency? These are some conditions among dogs that require your immediate attention:

- GVD and bloating
- Insect bites and stings
- Heatstroke
- Seizures
- Severe bleeding
- Exposure to dangerous things (food, toxins...)
- Very different behavior than what is normal for your dog

The first and most important thing to do in an emergency is not to panic. It's probably best to learn what to do in a doggie emergency before the emergency happens, but if this isn't the case, get a vet on the phone, and they will talk you through the necessary steps.



**Pro tip:** save your vet's phone number to your phone book and share it with everyone that look over your dog, when you're not available.

## Holistic Dog Care

The holistic approach to canine care looks at your pet's overall health. It uses a combination of alternative and traditional medicine. Put simply, holistic vets use lab tests and medication, but they also employ acupuncture, herbal remedies, and other forms of alternative medicine.

Although holistic pup care hasn't been fully regulated, there are plenty of anecdotal accounts of the success of this approach, especially in terms of nutrition and diets.

If your dog suffers from a condition that traditional medical care can't fix, the holistic method might be worth trying out.

## Paralyzed Dog Care

Dogs can become paralyzed due to spinal cord injuries and issues or neurological diseases. However, just because a dog can't walk anymore doesn't mean its life is over.

Nevertheless, potential owners should be aware that these dogs demand special care and attention, so consider all options and consequences before you take on this long-term commitment.

If you decide to take care of a paralyzed dog, here are a few helpful dog-care tips:

- Buy a suitable mobility harness or cart to help your pet move around.
- Monitor their bladder as some paralyzed dogs have problems urinating.
- To avoid a potential mess in your house, get a doggie diaper.
- Paralyzed dogs are prone to skin damage and sores. Your vet will prescribe suitable skincare products for your pet.
- Provide food, water, and exercise, just like you would with any other pet.



# Dog Nutrition Tips

A balanced diet is critically important to your dog's cell maintenance and growth and overall health. Bearing any special needs, illness-related deficiencies, or instructions from your vet, your pet should be able to get all the nutrients from high-quality commercial pet foods, which are specially formulated with these standards in mind.

But dogs of different ages have different nutritional requirements. So, how much—or how little—should you be feeding your four-legged friend? Read on to learn what your pet's body needs at the various stages of life.

## Nutrients Your Dog Needs

Nutrients are substances obtained from food and used by an animal as a source of energy and as part of the metabolic machinery necessary for maintenance and growth. There are six essential classes of nutrients dogs need for optimum healthy living.

### Water

Essential to life, water accounts for between 60 to 70% of an adult pet's body weight. While food may help meet some of your pet's water needs (dry food has up to 10% moisture, while canned food has up to 78% moisture), pets must have fresh clean water available to them at all times. A deficiency of water may have serious repercussions for pets. A 10% decrease in body water can cause serious illness, while a 15% loss can result in death.

### Proteins

Proteins are the basic building blocks for cells, tissues, organs, enzymes, hormones, and antibodies, and are essential for growth, maintenance, reproduction, and repair. Proteins can be obtained from several sources including animal-based meats such as chicken, lamb, turkey, beef, fish, and eggs (which have complete amino acid profiles) and in vegetables, cereals, and soy (but these are considered incomplete proteins).

Please note: Do not give your pet raw eggs. Raw egg white contains avidin, an anti-vitamin that interferes with the metabolism of fats, glucose, amino acids, and energy.

## Fats

Fats are the most concentrated form of food energy, providing your pet with more than twice the energy of proteins or carbohydrates. Fats are essential in the structure of cells, needed for the production of some hormones, and are required for the absorption and utilization of certain vitamins. Fats also provide insulation and protection for internal organs. A deficiency of essential fatty acids (such as linoleic acid) may result in reduced growth or increased skin problems.

## Carbohydrates

Carbohydrates provide energy, play a vital role in the health of the intestine, and are important for reproduction. While there is no minimum carbohydrate requirement, there is a minimum glucose requirement necessary to supply energy to critical organs such as the brain.

Fibers are kinds of carbohydrates that alter the bacterial population in the small intestine, which can help manage chronic diarrhea in dogs. For dogs to obtain the most benefit from fiber, the fiber source must be moderately fermentable. Moderately fermentable fibers—including beet pulp, which is commonly used in dog foods—are best to promote a healthy gut while avoiding the undesirable side effects of highly fermentable fibers, like flatulence and excess mucus.

Other examples of moderately fermentable fibers include brans (corn, rice, and wheat) and wheat middlings. Foods that are high in fiber are not good for dogs with high energy requirements, and who are young and growing.

## Vitamins

Tiny amounts of vitamins are necessary for dogs for normal metabolic functioning. Most vitamins cannot be synthesized in the body, and therefore are essential to obtain in the diet.

Please note that when feeding your dog a complete and balanced diet, it is usually unnecessary to give a vitamin supplement unless a specific vitamin deficiency is diagnosed by a veterinarian.

## Minerals

Minerals are nutrients that cannot be synthesized by animals and must be provided in the diet. In general, minerals are most important as structural constituents of bones and teeth, for maintaining fluid balance and for their involvement in many metabolic reactions.

# Feeding your dog at different ages

Your precious pup will grow up before you know it, and they're going to have some different nutritional needs at these different stages of their lives. Just like you wouldn't eat baby food as an adult, even your pet pooch can't be expected to go on eating puppy food as a full-grown dog! So, it's very important to take care of your dog's nutrition based on its age.

## Puppy (0 – 12 months)

If you've ever seen a puppy you know that they're tiny furry balls of energy! And since puppies grow very very fast, that means that they need highly nutritious food with lots of proteins and vitamins to help your fur baby to grow big and strong. They also need to eat more frequently as they use up a lot of energy. You can start with around four meals a day and gradually reduce it to two times a day.

## Adult (1 – 7 years)

Puppies become fully grown adults at 12 months (so soon!). And around this time, you will need to transition your pup to adult food. Again, you're going to need to make sure that it's the right food for your pooch's breed, size, and weight (just have a quick chat with your vet!)

Another thing to keep in mind is how active your dog is. If your furry friend loves to run around and play all day, they might need more calories than if they spend their days lazing around in bed!

## Mature (7-11 years)

When your precious fur ball is past 7, they're starting to get a little bit older, and also probably a little bit slower. This means that you might need to look for the kind of dog food that is rich in nutrients (to make sure they maintain that puppy spirit!) but with a lower number of calories (to make up for that slower metabolism).

## Senior (11+)

If you have an older dog, you might want to consider cutting back on how much food you serve your pooch at each meal (just to avoid any weight gain from less activity). You could also look for dog foods that contain fewer minerals so that there is less stress on your dog's kidneys. Be on the lookout for any major changes to your furry BFF's weight or eating habits, as that could be a symptom of a health issue.

Other factors you would need to look at are your furry friend's weight, size, breed, and level of activity. You can also ask your vet if you need to get any food specifically for health issues like dental care and stomach issues.

\*Keep in mind the above age ranges and information are just guidelines and your dog might age faster or slower due to any number of health issues.

## Food that your dog should avoid

Every dog parent knows the routine – you sit down for dinner and your furry baby turns those big puppy-dog eyes to you to beg for food. It seems so hard to resist, but you must! Giving your dog human food can be harmful, as it's often too rich and fatty for a doggy's digestive system (and this is especially true for restaurant leftovers). Sometimes, human food also has ingredients that are toxic to dogs, such as:

### **Onions and Garlic**

Onions and garlic are super toxic for dogs and can lead to anemia and serious damage to the red blood cells.

### **Cooked bones**

Unlike raw bones, cooked bones tend to be smaller and can end up splintering and sticking in the throat or damage your pooch's stomach or intestine!

### **Artificial sweeteners**

These often contain a chemical called xylitol, which can be extremely harmful, as it causes liver damage and might even result in a life-threatening drop in your dog's blood sugar.

### **Milk and Milk Products**

Dairy products can upset your dog's delicate digestive system and cause diarrhea or lead to food allergies. Cheese, in particular, is too calorific for them.

### **Macadamia nuts and Almonds**

These nuts are very toxic to your dog and can cause everything from weakness and diarrhea to paralysis.

### **Chocolate**

By now you've probably heard that chocolate is really bad for dogs and can cause severely upset stomachs. Generally, the more chocolate consumed the worse the symptoms will be. Similarly, the darker the chocolate is, the more dangerous it is to your pup.

### **Grapes and Raisins**

While grapes and raisins are not harmful to some dogs, in others they can lead to kidney failure in others. So, it's not worth the risk to find out!

Other things you should not feed your dog are avocados, alcohol, and caffeine. If you think your furry BFF has accidentally ingested any of these substances, a quick call to the vet would be a good idea. Just like with what you eat, choosing the right food can ensure a better life for your furry friend too. It can help them stay healthy and active.

So as a dog parent, you must feed your pooch the right food for each stage of their lives. It might take a little time for you to find the best food for your dog, but since it could mean that much more enjoyable for your four-legged best friend, we're sure it's completely worth it!