

# Human Food Hazards



*#1 in a Series of Eight*

## *Grapes, Raisins and Currants*

**What they're in:** Uncooked grapes, raisins, and currants are likely more toxic than cooked fruit. Don't forget about raisins in cereals, trail mixes, baked goods, and snack boxes.

**Threat to pets:** These fruits can cause acute kidney failure in dogs and may cause kidney failure in cats and ferrets as well. While not all dogs and cats will develop kidney failure, it's impossible to know which pets will be sensitive to these fruits. Therefore, all pets—especially dogs—that ingest grapes, raisins, or currants should be monitored closely and treated appropriately. If a small dog or cat eats just a small number of grapes or raisins, this is considered an emergency.

**Signs:** Vomiting within a few hours of ingestion is typical. Within one to four days of ingestion, pets may experience increased urination, increased thirst, lethargy, and a reduced appetite.

**Treatment:** Induce vomiting and then administer activated charcoal to decontaminate (adsorb and remove toxins). Follow up by administering anti-vomiting medication and aggressive intravenous fluids to protect the kidneys. Frequent monitoring of kidney laboratory values and in-hospital care are also recommended.

**Prognosis:** Excellent if animals are treated before signs begin. Once they have begun to go into kidney failure, the prognosis becomes much worse.