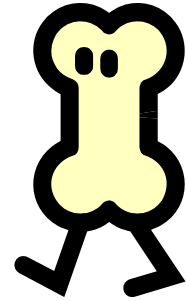


# No Bones About It!

Bones are unsafe no matter what their size. Giving your dog a bone may make your pet a candidate for a trip to the veterinarian's office later, possible emergency surgery, or even death." Says Carmela Stamper, DVM, a veterinarian in the Center for Veterinary Medicine at the Food and Drug Administration.



Here are 10 reasons why it's a bad idea to give your dog a bone:

1. **Broken teeth:** This may call for expensive veterinary dentistry costing hundreds of dollars.
2. **Mouth or tongue injuries:** These can be very bloody and messy and may require a trip to your veterinarian.
3. **Bone gets looped around your dog's lower jaw:** This can be frightening or painful for your dog and potentially costly to you, as it usually means a trip to see your veterinarian.
4. **Bone gets stuck in the esophagus, the tube that food travels through to reach the stomach:** Your dog may gag, trying to bring the bone back up, and will need to see your veterinarian.
5. **Bone gets stuck in the windpipe:** This may happen if your dog accidentally inhales a small enough piece of bone. This is an emergency because your dog will have trouble breathing. Get your pet to the veterinarian immediately!
6. **Bone gets stuck in the stomach:** It went down just fine, but the bone may be too big to pass out of the stomach and into the intestines. Depending on the bone's size, your dog may need surgery or upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, a procedure in which your veterinarian uses a long tube with a built in camera and grabbing tools to try and remove the stuck bone from the stomach.
7. **Bone gets stuck in the intestines and causing blockage:** It may be time for surgery, which can be costly for the owner.
8. **Constipation due to bone fragments:** Your dog may have a hard time passing the bone fragments because they are sharp and they scrape the inside of the large intestine and rectum as they move along. This causes severe pain and may require a visit to your veterinarian.
9. **Severe bleeding from the rectum:** This is very messy and can be dangerous. Its time to see your veterinarian.
10. **Peritonitis:** This nasty, difficult to treat bacterial infection of the abdomen is caused when bone fragments poke holes in your dogs stomach or intestines. Your dog needs an emergency visit to your veterinarian because peritonitis can kill your dog.

"Always supervise your dog with any chew product, especially one your dog hasn't had before," adds Stamper, "And always, if your dog 'just isn't acting right', call your veterinarian right away!!"



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