

## BARK BACK

IF YOU WANT TO "BARK BACK" WITH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES  
OR SIMPLY SHARE A THOUGHT WITH OUR READERS...PLEASE DON'T HESITATE—SEND THEM IN!

Dear Nancy Lee,

I just read the article titled "Seven Home Remedies For Your Dog" (Jan./Feb. 2017). Borax is toxic and is not recommended for use on or around dogs. Even if they don't eat it off the surfaces to which it's applied, they can get it on their paws and then lick their paws, thus ingesting it. Topical flea treatments are applied to the neck of the dog where they can't get at it with their paws.

Another belief is that garlic prevents fleas. There is no scientific evidence to support that claim. In addition, garlic is related to onions which are known to be toxic to dogs and therefore should not be used as a flea control product.

Cynthia Webster, NH

Dear Nancy Lee,

Referring to the article titled "Ten Best and Worst Holiday Foods for Pets" (Nov./Dec. 2016)...

Actually, this article leaves out a few bad foods for dogs. Cat food can be hard on a dog's kidneys if eaten regularly, especially by an older dog. And, that article left out chocolate, which dogs digest to theobromines (which are toxic to dog). My vet is the source of my saying that the very high protein levels in cat food are what are too hard on a dog's kidneys. Dogs aren't actually carnivores, they are meat-preferring omnivores. Coyotes are known for eating apples and berries. Most canines eat grass to keep parasites down or to get rid of a toxin. And, gross as it is, they also tend to eat the stomach contents of the herbivores they kill. This is why "Maggie" gets

green beans, broccoli, carrots and other veggies added to her dinner.

Dogs blood hemolyze if they eat onions, which is very hard on the dog's kidneys when they try to get rid of the hemolyzed blood (the iron that is dumped when red cells rupture causes iron poisoning as it isn't attached to the right protein molecule to be safely transported in the plasma). The molecules are bigger than the kidneys can safely excrete. This is also the first big reason why transfusion reactions can be devastating for people. Horses have the same reaction if there is onion grass in their pasture. And, they can also have a hemolytic reaction to eating maple leaves.

For more information regarding other deadly foods for dogs, visit the website printed at the bottom of this "Bark Back" section.

Jan Wertz, TN

Dear Nancy Lee,

One thing on West Nile Virus (pertaining to the article titles "Can Pets Get the West Nile or Zika Virus?, July/August 2016)...

Birds in the crow family, which includes jays, can get the virus and frequently die from it. This is why the corn crows that were invading the suburbs about ten years ago have vanished. There are still crows in the country, but not in their previous numbers. The same is true for jays such as blue jays.

Jan Wertz, TN

Website address for more information about foods which are toxic to dogs—  
[http://blog.theanimalrescuesite.com/int-deadly-foods/?gg\\_source=ars&gg\\_campaign=Ad%20-%20468x250news-sliderintdeadlyfoodsdecember2014ars&gg\\_medium=house&gg\\_content=2016-12/468x250newsslid\\_161220101044.jpg](http://blog.theanimalrescuesite.com/int-deadly-foods/?gg_source=ars&gg_campaign=Ad%20-%20468x250news-sliderintdeadlyfoodsdecember2014ars&gg_medium=house&gg_content=2016-12/468x250newsslid_161220101044.jpg)



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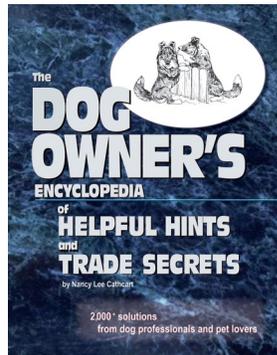
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Enjoy!  
Nancy Lee

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Nancy Lee Cathcart —  
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