

What to do if a dog eats chicken bone?

You are a strict dog parent but the furry guy is a mischievous one who often does something that it is not supposed to do. Besides constant observation, accidents happen and dogs can end up hurting themselves or getting sick. Their favorite activity is to steal food when no one is looking. They are so quick in doing so, that you only leave the kitchen for a minute, your dog devoured the yummy food off the counter.

Some foods are okay to eat but some are dangerous for dogs. One such food is chicken bones which are particularly harmful to your dog. [Chicken is common](#) in households and hence within the reach of dogs all the time. Cooked chicken bones are a choking hazard because they splinter up resulting in piercing and obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract.

If your dog accidentally ate the chicken bone and you have no idea what to do next. No need to panic. Because we will tell what your response should be? But before that let's see is chicken bone not good for your good?

Are Chicken Bones Dangerous For Dogs?

Yes! Chicken bones are dangerous for dogs like any other cooked bone. Since [cooked bones](#) are crisp and hence easily crumble which can perforate the dog's gastrointestinal tract. Dogs eat them as a delicious meal but they end up hurting the dog's throat, damaging the gums, injuring the gullet, and if goes into the stomach causes further problems. The bone pieces can also block the guts.

If chicken bone goes into windpipe it causes choking and severe coughing. Serious blockage of windpipe can obstruct breathing which turns into a life-threatening situation. While the stomach digests bones to some extent but it takes a while during which a lot of damage is already done.

Can Chicken Bone Kill Dogs?

Chicken bone can be life-threatening but in rare cases. The worst-case scenario happens when chicken bone perforates the esophagus i.e. the gullet. The esophagus is the pipe that links the mouth to the stomach running through the chest area beside the lung and heart.

The gastrointestinal tract has various microbes and bacteria such as salmonella living inside. When chicken bone pierces the gullet, it damages the protective layer of the gullet. This causes the inflammation and infection to spread which can be fatal. The piercing doesn't cause as damage as the infection resulting from it.

Can Dogs Eat Raw Chicken?

Raw chicken bones are less problematic than cooked ones because they are not fragile hence don't break easily. But it doesn't mean it is okay for a dog to eat raw chicken often. Keep away

the chicken even if it is raw. You can feed chicken as a part of a normal diet but it should be finely ground not to choke up the dog. And don't assume that the dog was fine after eating chicken bone before, they will be fine again. Because you never know when the situation becomes dangerous.

How can I help dogs digest chicken bone?

First, stay calm and observe the situation. If you spot any of these symptoms in the dog, the situation is problematic.

- Vomiting
- Retching
- Weakness
- Bloated abdomen
- Drooling
- Troubled breathing
- Sitting in a [hunched](#) position
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea
- Not passing feces
- Gagging
- Coughing

If the dog is eating and breathing well, it means the condition is safe hence monitor the situation calmly. But if the dog is vomiting constantly, and blood appears in the stool you should take the dog to the vet for instant medical intervention. During this time, avoid making the dog vomit. As you don't know the location and size of chicken bone so it can cause even further damage while coming up from the stomach. Here's what you should do if the dog has eaten the chicken bone but is normal.

1. Feed a little to your dog

You might be a little cautious about food at this time and want to avoid feeding but our advice is to let the dog eat a little usual food. This food will help to stimulate the dog's normal digestion which can break the obstructed bones in the stomach. Food will also act as a cushion and protects the stomach walls against the sharp-edged bones.

2. Allow gentle exercise

Let your dog move around a little. Not grumpy jumping but gentle exercise helps in improvising digestion. Take your dog for a walk and keep an eye during their exercise time.

3. Keep the dog hydrated

Ensure that dog is having enough freshwater. Add water to the dog's food or switch from dry to wet food to increase the water portion. Hydration improves digestion thus can help to remove the stuck chicken bone.

4. Monitor dog's stools

If your dog has vomiting and diarrhea, it is quite obvious that the dog is experiencing the side effects of consuming chicken. It is important to notice that dog is passing stool in the first place because the inability to do so points towards a bigger problem.

Should I Worry?

It depends on various factors, like what kind of bone the dog has eaten, bone size, number of bones, and health status of the dog. Dogs are carnivore animals. Their digestive system can naturally digest bones and meat but not always. The reason is that cooked bones are more dangerous than the raw and these are the ones that dogs get hold of often.

Cooked bones are brittle and break into sharp pieces which can block the airway or gastrointestinal tract or cause perforation of the esophagus. Either of the outcomes is life-threatening. So you have to act quickly after the dog eats chicken bone.

Conclusion

Chicken bones are dangerous for dogs. Cooked chicken bones can cause gastrointestinal blockage which causes symptoms like abdomen cramps, bloody stools, vomiting, and diarrhea. It is also highly likely that a dog's digestive system will digest the bone pieces as it is naturally built to do so. In case your dog eats a chicken bone but is normal, make the dog eat a little food, drink lots of water and walk so the digestive system gets stimulated for active digestion of chicken bone.