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-Xylitol is an artificial sweetener now common in low calorie or no calorie foods

-It is non-toxic to humans and cats, and in fact promotes good dental health in humans, so many dentists are recommending it

-The most common items it is found in is chewing gum, but others may be: peanut butter, toothpaste or mouthwash, beverages, baked goods, hard candies, ice cream, condiments

-It is very toxic to dogs, 100x more than chocolate. A Labrador sized dog would only need to consume about 5 sticks of gum for it to be very dangerous.

-Ingestion causes a very rapid drop in blood sugar due to an overproduction of insulin. Symptoms may be vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, seizure, progressing towards coma and death

-If you think your dog may have eaten a product containing xylitol:

- 1) call the emergency line
- 2) save/bring along the packaging from whatever your dog just ate
- 3) administer anything you can find that is very sugary by mouth immediately before you leave the house--karo syrup, maple syrup, OJ, apple juice, real sugar, etc-- attempt to keep blood sugar from dropping too low.
- 4) Bring someone with you if you can, and keep administering during the ride to the clinic.

-Treatment can be simple and relatively inexpensive (hospitalization for IV fluids and dextrose).

Severe cases can result in liver failure.

Failure to treat at all can result in death.