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pics of dog who ate chocolate brownies on life support before dying 8 days later as owners warned sweetener fatal to pets

Owner Kate Chacksfield wants to raise awareness around the dangers of dogs consuming common sugar substitute xylitol

By Thomas Burrows

7th February 2019, 6:25 pm | Updated: 7th February 2019, 6:50 pm

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A DOG owner has been left heartbroken after her beloved pet died from eating chocolate brownies which contained sugar substitute Xylitol.

Devastated Kate Chacksfield, 51, released photos of her Hungarian Vizsla Ruby on life support after eating two of her brownies.

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Owner Kate Chacksfield, 51, shared heartbreaking photos of her dog Ruby on life support

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Kate had made the brownies with Xylitol as she wanted to cut down on her sugar intake.

However the low-calorie sweetener is extremely toxic to dogs and even small amounts can cause sugar levels to plummet, seizures, liver failure or death.

Seven-year-old Ruby fell ill 36 hours after eating the brownies and died eight days later - despite Kate spending £10,000 to try to save her life.

She died of liver failure and a suspected stroke.

The photos of her on life support still make me cry

Owner Kate Chacksfield

Kate, a media and presentation coach from Acton in West London, said: "I only made brownies with Xylitol in to reduce the amount of

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"She seemed fine at first and it wasn't until a couple of days later she started being violently ill and I took her to the vets.

"I had no idea how serious eating natural sweeteners was for dogs...the photos of her on life support still make me cry.

"We've had her since she was a puppy and I'm completely lost without her."

DANGERS OF XYLITOL

Kate has shared her heartbreaking story to raise awareness around the dangers of dogs consuming xylitol.

She said: "I had absolutely no idea Xylitol was harmful to dogs what so ever and I was heartbroken when they told me and I knew it was too late for Ruby.

"I really, really urge other dog owners to read up on the dangers of Xylitol in dogs and urgently take their pets to the vet if they accidentally consume it as it could be the difference between life and death."

Xylitol sweetener is frequently found in chewing gum and mints and can be used in place of sugar in many cakes.

Kate said it takes just a quarter of a teaspoon to cause liver failure in dogs the size of a Labrador and even less in smaller breeds.

She said: "We did everything we could to save Ruby - she was so loved and we all miss her dearly. We really had hope she would pull through so we were heartbroken when she didn't.

"We'd love to be able to save other dogs from going through what Ruby went through".

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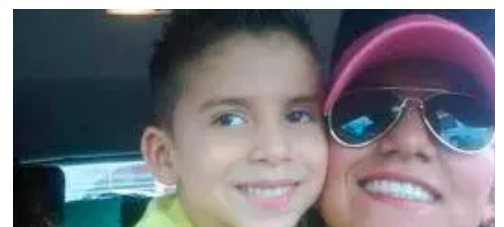
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Dr Nicola Robinson, head of Veterinary Poisons Information Service

lethal.

“It takes just half a gram of pure xylitol per kilogram of weight – around an eighth of a teaspoon – to cause liver failure in dogs.

“Roughly a quarter of a teaspoon is enough to harm a dog the size of a labrador.”



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Ruby was taken to the he Royal Veterinary College, but she died of liver failure and a suspected stroke eight days after eating the brownies

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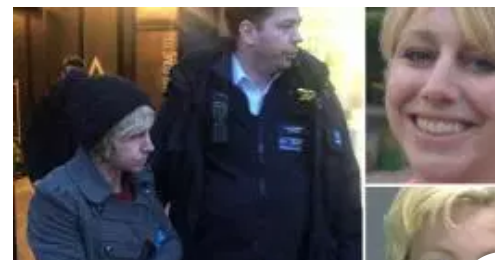
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