



**The safer option: specially designed Easter treats for dogs**

# What's good for us could harm man's best friend

DOG-OWNERS are being warned about the dangers of spoiling their dogs.

Berkhamsted-based company Walk The Dog has warned of the bad effects treating your dog can have.

Founder of the company Hanne Grice said: "We think we're giving our pet dog a nice treat when we offer them a cube of chocolate, but research has found that chocolate contains a compound called xanthines.

"Ingestion of chocolate can cause muscle tremors, difficulty in breathing, irregular heartbeats and in some cases it can be fatal.

"It's at this time of year that this becomes more possible because there is typically so much chocolate available in the house."

Chocolate isn't the only dangerous treat that owners might be tempted to give their dogs.

Chicken or turkey bones shouldn't be given to pets as they can splinter easily, causing damage to the intestine and can cause choking if they get stuck in the throat.

Other dangers include stuffing, which can contain the toxic ingredient thiosulphate in onions and garlic, and as few as six nuts are enough to cause some dogs to develop muscular tremors and paralysis in their legs.