

Can Dogs Drink Tea?

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

Can dogs drink tea, in summary: Mostly no: caffeine is toxic to dogs and even decaf has traces. Water is the answer; some caffeine free herbals only tiny and under vet guidance.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Can Dogs Drink Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-dogs-drink-tea/>*

"Can dogs drink tea?" is one of the most-searched pet questions, and the answer is mostly no. This sits at the centre of the pets cluster beside [is tea toxic to dogs](#).

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in January 2026.

General information, not veterinary advice. Pets differ; if your animal has ingested caffeine or you are unsure, contact a vet or an animal poison line immediately.

The short answer

No to normal tea. Caffeine is toxic to dogs and they are far more sensitive to it than people; black, green, white and oolong all contain it, and even decaf retains traces. Caffeine can cause restlessness, a raised heart rate, vomiting and, at sufficient dose, serious effects, which is why ordinary tea is simply not a drink for a dog. See [is tea toxic to dogs](#) and the [caffeine guide](#).

Tea and dogs, at a glance

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Can Dogs Drink Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-dogs-drink-tea/>*

| Given to a dog | Verdict |
|---|--|
| Black / green / any true tea | no, caffeine is toxic to dogs |
| Decaf tea | no, retains trace caffeine |
| Milky, sugared tea | worse, dairy and sugar add problems |
| Caffeine-free herbal (chamomile, ginger, rooibos) only tiny, well-diluted, under vet guidance | |
| Fresh water | yes, the only thing a dog needs to drink |

Caffeine-free is not automatically safe

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Caffeine-free is not automatically safe, Can Dogs Drink Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-dogs-drink-tea/>*

Some genuinely caffeine-free herbals such as chamomile, ginger, rooibos or peppermint are sometimes given to dogs in tiny, well-diluted amounts under veterinary guidance, but caffeine-free is not automatically safe: several botanicals that are fine for people are unsuitable or actively unsafe for dogs, so it is a vet decision rather than a web one. Milk and sugar only make a cup more unsuitable, because many dogs handle dairy poorly and sugar is unhelpful. See [safe herbal teas for dogs](#).

What dogs should drink

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for What dogs should drink, Can Dogs Drink Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-dogs-drink-tea/>*

Fresh water, always available and changed regularly, is the only thing a dog actually needs to drink. Tea adds nothing a dog needs and carries a real risk it does not, so the simplest safe rule is that tea is for humans and water is for pets.

If your dog drinks tea

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for If your dog drinks tea, Can Dogs Drink Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-dogs-drink-tea/>*

Scale the response to the amount and the strength. A single lick of weak, milky tea from an unattended mug is usually a minor matter for a healthy adult dog, the kind of thing to note and watch. A real quantity, a strong brew, a small dog, a puppy, or any pre-existing condition shifts it firmly into vet territory, as do signs such as restlessness, a racing heart, vomiting, tremors or agitation, which warrant contacting a vet or an animal poison line immediately rather than waiting. Treat genuine ingestion as a professional call rather than a web search, see [my dog drank tea](#).

Bottom line

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Bottom line, Can Dogs Drink Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-dogs-drink-tea/>*

No normal tea for dogs because caffeine is toxic; no decaf because it retains traces; no milky sweet tea because dairy and sugar compound the problem; caffeine-free herbals only tiny, well-diluted and under veterinary guidance; and water, always, as the one thing a dog needs to drink. Keep the cup for yourself from the full [tea shop](#) and the water bowl for the dog, the consistent line the [can cats drink tea](#) page shares.

Shop the range: browse the [English tea range](#) and [loose leaf range](#).

Reference noted

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Reference noted, Can Dogs Drink Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-dogs-drink-tea/>*

- [EFSA Scientific Opinion on the Safety of Caffeine \(2015\)](#)

FROM THE CURATOR teas · Buy on the cup, not on the label. The wider shelf is there for when you know what you like.

Pets & tea companion reading

- [Is tea toxic to dogs](#)
- [Safe herbal teas for dogs](#)
- [My dog drank tea](#)
- [Can cats drink tea](#)

Source: [Teas.co.uk](#). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Can Dogs Drink Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-dogs-drink-tea/>*

More from the tea wiki

- [Green tea](#)
- [Black tea](#)
- [Oolong tea](#)
- [White tea](#)
- [Herbal tea](#)
- [Caffeine in tea](#)
- [How to make tea properly](#)
- [Loose leaf vs teabag](#)

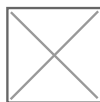
Earn rewards on Teas.co.uk

Earn loyalty points on every order. Free to join.

+100 pts

Create your free account

Welcome bonus + earn on every order.



100 pts = 1 tree

Plant a tree in Scotland

Pledge points to our reforestation partner.

