

Counter-Surfing Prevention Checklist

Counter surfing rewards itself: every crumb a dog finds up there keeps the habit alive. **Make the counter boring and empty, give your dog something better to do, and teach “place” and “leave it”**, and know which stolen foods mean a call to the vet.

FILLABLE PDF – TYPE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, OR PRINT AND FILL IT IN BY HAND.

DOG'S NAME

VET PHONE

START DATE

MANAGEMENT (DOES MOST OF THE WORK)

- ☐ **Clear counters**, every time, for everyone in the house
- ☐ **Cooking?** Food back from the edge; dog behind a gate with a chew
- ☐ **Same rules for the whole household**, guests included
- ☐ **Food in cabinets**, the fridge or airtight containers
- ☐ **Trash and compost** in a lidded bin the dog can't open
- ☐ **No scolding after the fact**: the food already paid off

TRAINING (5–10 MINUTES A DAY)

- 1 “Place”**: reward your dog on its bed, then build time, distance and distraction.
- 2 Send to place** while you cook, with a food toy there.
- 3 “Leave it”** on a ladder: soap, household items, raw potato, then real food.
- 4 The reward must beat the item** your dog is leaving.

IF YOUR DOG STOLE THESE, CALL YOUR VET OR A POISON LINE

CALL NOW

Don't wait for signs

- Anything with **xylitol** (sugar-free gum, baked goods, some nut butters)
- **Grapes or raisins**, any amount
- **Chocolate**, coffee or caffeine

ALSO CALL

Bring the label

- **Onion, garlic** or chives
- **Macadamia nuts**
- **Alcohol** or **raw yeast dough**

BLOCKAGE RISK

Call; watch for vomiting

- **Cooked bones**
- **Corn cobs**
- **Fruit pits** (peach, plum, mango)

PRACTICE LOG

DATE	SKILL	MINUTES	HOW IT WENT

Poison lines (US, 24/7): ASPCA Animal Poison Control 888-426-4435 · Pet Poison Helpline 855-764-7661. A fee may apply.

THE FULL VERSION: STOP COUNTER-SURFING GUIDE & PLANNER · ON ETSY: [NEWDOGCO.ETSY.COM](https://www.etsy.com/shop/newdogco)

Sources: American Kennel Club (counter surfing); American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior; ASPCA Animal Poison Control (people foods to avoid; top toxins 2025); U.S. FDA (xylitol).