



Do You Know What You're Feeding Your Dog?

Most people can name the many popular dog foods and treats regularly purchased in food and pet stores. But do you know what is in these foods and if they are really good for your dog? Taking the time to look at the ingredients label may surprise you and may help you decide to make healthier choices for your pet!

Reading the Label

When reading the ingredients label, the first ingredients should be **WHOLE meat**. Meat byproduct listed in the ingredients means it consists of lungs, spleen, kidneys, brain, blood, bone, fatty tissue, stomach and intestines.

GRAINS in dog food are primarily fillers and lack necessary nutritional value. They are a cheap way to fill a main ingredient and are a major factor in pet obesity. Corn is an incomplete protein and contains gluten which is one of the more allergenic foods, as is wheat. Dogs have a difficult time digesting corn and corn meal.

BHA and BHT are listed in some foods and are used as a preservative. They have also been found to be cancer causing agents. Beet pulp is also used as a bonding agent.

Foods should not be artificially flavored, dyed or laced with chemicals. Dogs don't care what color their food is. While bacon flavor appeals to us, real chicken will equally satisfy your dog and is healthier for him too.



So, what other choices are there and where do you find them?

Typically the smaller local pet stores will carry a variety of pet foods, like Pets Plus, PetValu, Concord Pets Supply. Foods can also be purchased online. Some snack foods can be found in chain stores such as Target.

