



## THE SAFETY OF PET FOOD

BACKED BY DECADES  
OF SCIENCE

The role of the pet food manufacturer is to provide safe and nutritious food for our cherished pets. The pet food industry is strictly regulated by over 50 pieces of legislation. In addition, UK Pet Food members manufacture their products following Codes of Practice, such as the 'Guide to Good Practice for the Manufacture of Safe Pet Foods.' This provides additional reassurance of quality and standards.

Love them **madly**  
Feed them **wisely**



**Our Commitment to 'Love them madly, feed them wisely'.**

Members of UK Pet Food sign a Charter annually confirming they comply with the industry's best practices.

The Charter helps our members comply with UK legislation and commits them to following Codes of Practice and guidelines developed by the European Pet Food body (FEDIAF), which ensure safety and quality standards. We work hard, alongside FEDIAF, to ensure these are maintained and that our members provide safe, nutritious food for pets.

### INGREDIENTS

UK regulations specify which safe ingredients can be used in pet food manufacturing. Pet food ingredients can be of either animal or plant origin.

#### ANIMAL-BASED INGREDIENTS

Most ingredients in pet food are by-products from the human food chain. These are not just leftovers but high-quality ingredients that people in the UK choose not to eat. Cats and dogs will happily eat organ meats or the less pretty trimmings, which may not appeal to us but are nutritious and delicious to them (e.g. liver, kidneys, heart, etc.)

#### PLANT-BASED INGREDIENTS

Ingredients from plant origin are often common to both human and pet nutrition (e.g., maize, rice, wheat, oat, etc.); other ingredients are specific to pet food as manufacturers are looking for exact combinations of nutritional properties, especially beneficial to pets (such as vegetable fibres to stimulate the intestinal transit, pre-and probiotics to help promote healthy digestion, etc..)

Additionally, hygienic collecting, transportation, and temperature control helps ensure the safety of pet food ingredients.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON PET FOOD INGREDIENTS CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.UKPETFOOD.ORG](http://WWW.UKPETFOOD.ORG)

**PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

All pet food manufacturers' sites, buildings, and facilities must be designed to reduce the risk of contamination and maximize security. This may involve using hygienically engineered manufacturing equipment, installing handwashing stations, establishing walking patterns to minimise cross-contamination, applying protective coatings on floors and walls, securing the facility perimeter, internal area, and equipment, using metal detectors, and restricting the use of glass and hard plastics throughout the process. At every stage, the HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) methodology is applied to evaluate food safety risks and establish controls to address them effectively.

**GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICE**

A responsible pet food manufacturer will take safety and quality very seriously and have defined processes and standards that help ensure the safety and quality of their ingredients and products.

You can download a copy of our Good Pet Food Manufacturing Practice Guide [here](#).

These should start with reliable suppliers and cover the whole process through to feeding the pet and are likely to include:

- Selection of reliable suppliers – companies that supply ingredients are regularly inspected by responsible pet food manufacturers to gain 'supplier approval'.
- Defined specifications for raw materials and regular inspection and testing against these – may also require a certificate of analysis from the supplier. Presence of undesirable substances is monitored at this stage. Additives used in pet food are being subject to approval by the Food Standards Agency (FSA).
- A clearly defined specification for the product that includes nutritional profile, colour, texture, digestibility and palatability and technical parameters such as moisture content. Routine testing of product against specifications.
- Visual inspection of milling process.
- Precise measuring of raw material quantities ensuring accuracy versus recipe.
- Carefully controlled cooking temperatures and times.
- Regular sampling and testing of finished products.
- Recording of recipe ingredients through batch records, and of finished product pallets and their destinations to ensure traceability.
- Established microbial testing routine for both finished product and manufacturing facilities.
- Regular checking of packaging integrity, which may include continuous monitoring through cameras.
- Metal detectors and x-ray machines to locate foreign bodies within finished product.
- Verification of nutritional adequacy via analysis of raw materials and/or finished products and/or feeding studies using the **FEDIAF Nutritional Guidelines**.

A responsible pet food manufacturer may also choose to implement external audits and voluntary certifications.

For more information about the safety and quality standards that apply to a particular product please contact the pet food manufacturer.

Please check our [website](#) or simply scan the QR code below for a full list of UK Pet Food Factsheets and Posters



**UK PET FOOD** **GOOD PET FOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICE**

A responsible pet food manufacturer takes safety and quality very seriously and they will have defined processes and standards in place to ensure this. These are likely to include:

<p>Only using legally permitted ingredients from registered suppliers</p> 	<p>Supplier approval process in place.</p> 
<p>Routine inspections of ingredients to ensure they meet specifications.</p> 	<p>Precise formulations and measuring of ingredients to ensure recipes are accurate.</p> 
<p>Carefully controlled temperatures and protocols to ensure microbiological safety at all times.</p> 	<p>Quality checks on nutritional profile, colour, texture, digestibility and palatability.</p> 
<p>Verification of nutritional adequacy by analysis of finished products using the FEDIAF Nutritional Guidelines.</p> 	<p>Routine microbiological testing routine for both finished products and manufacturing facilities.</p> 
<p>Appropriate techniques, e.g. metal detectors and x-ray machines, to locate foreign bodies throughout the manufacturing process.</p> 	<p>Regular checking of packaging integrity.</p> 
<p>Batch records of finished product and their destinations to ensure traceability.</p> 	<p>Audited by external regulatory bodies and participation in voluntary accreditation schemes.</p> 

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www.ukpetfood.org 