

# Animal protein in pet foods



SHEET NUMBER 1

Pet food often incorporates a variety of animal-based ingredients, which comprises of parts that may not initially sound appetizing to humans. However these parts are enjoyed by our animal friends. These can include kidney, spleen, lungs, pig's trotters, udders, and residual fish parts post-processing. These ingredients might sound unconventional, but they serve as an exceptional source of protein, essential amino acids, and other vital nutrients for your pets. Pet food manufacturers prioritize sourcing nutritionally rich ingredients to craft high-quality, balanced, and appealing pet nutrition.(1)

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### Restricted Animal-Based Components in Pet Dietary Formulations

Ingredients sourced from animals that have not been rated suitable for human consumption by veterinary inspections at the time of slaughter, including waste products, roadkill, and diseased animals.(1)

### Meat and animal derivatives

You might have come across the phrase "meat and animal derivatives" on pet food labels. This term just describes the animal-based ingredients used in the recipe and is mandated by law. Pet foods are containa blend of various ingredients, all mixed together to fulfill the pet's daily nutritional needs. These ingredients can be listed on the pet food label as a category description like "meat and animal derivatives" or as a detailed ingredients list(1).



### Reasons behind the term "Meat and animal derivatives"

The use of the term "meat and animal derivatives" doesn't indicate an attempt to conceal ingredients. It is based on the labeling regulations that the pet food industry is obligated to adhere to. No matter how it's listed, all pet food ingredients meet the same high safety and quality standards.. Additionally, all recipes are meticulously formulated to meet the nutritional requirements of pets and to be appealing to them.(1)

### Things to know about meat meal

Meat meals are animal by-products that undergo heat treatment and drying, resulting in the removal of most moisture and fat, thus offering a concentrated protein source.

Other protein sources, aside from meat products from slaughtered animals, may include:

- Hunted animals after subjected to veterinary inspection
- Fish and seafood
- Dairy products and eggs
- Vegetable protein (soybeans and other legumes)
- Cereals and potatoes (cereals can provide a proportion of the protein)

### Reference

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