

## **Does your pets food contain any of the following ingredients or preservatives.**

***Animal Digest:*** Wikipedia describes animal digest as "a cooked-down broth which can be made from unspecified parts of unspecified animals." The animals used can be obtained from almost any source and no control is in place over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, euthanized at animal shelters, restaurant and supermarket refuse, etc."

***Animal Fat:*** Animal fat is the rendered or extracted fat. Restaurant grease has become a major component of feed-grade animal fat. It is stabilized with powerful antioxidants to retard spoilage, and then sprayed directly onto extruded kibble to increase palatability. Mm mm... Rendering, as defined by Webster's Dictionary, is "to process as for industrial use: to render livestock carcasses and to extract oil from fat, blubber, etc, by melting." (Dr. Corinne Chapman, Rocky Ridge Vet Care).

***Artificial Flavours and Colours:*** Artificial flavours and colours are synthetically made chemicals, added to enhance a product's taste and colour. Artificial flavours and colours, also known as additives, don't belong in dog and cat food. These additives can conceal inferior food by making it appear better than it actually is, they add no nutritional value and may cause health problems when consumed on a regular basis. Studies show that these chemicals can be carcinogenic/toxic and can cause problems ranging from behavioral problems to allergies to cancers.

***Barley Flour:*** Barley flour is the soft, finely ground and bolted meal obtained from milling of barley. It consists essentially of the starch and gluten of the endosperm. Flour is an undesirable indigestible ingredient and there is very little nutrition left because it is heavily processed and many pets develop allergies.

***Corn:*** Corn (also called maize) refers to the "whole" corn kernel without the husk and is considered highly allergenic for many pets, is a cheap ingredient, and it's not recommended. Most corn is a genetically modified food, also makes it undesirable. Additionally, because corn lacks or is low in critical essential amino acids such as lysine, methionine, arginine and taurine, it is not a good source of protein. Corn is not considered a species appropriate food for our pets. Many companion pet either have an intolerance or an allergy to corn.

***Flax Seed Oil:*** Some companion pets have an intolerance to flax seed oil. If your pet shows signs of vomiting and diarrhea it is likely that your animal has an intolerance to flax seed oil.

***Hemp Seed Oil:*** Hemp Seed oil is not very shelf stable therefore must be kept refrigerated and used within one month. If it is not refrigerated it will become rancid and cause vomiting and diarrhea in you companion pet.

***Kamut Flour:*** Is a type of grain that is indigestible by companion pets and can cause allergies.

**Lard:** Lard is the rendered fat of swine. "Industrially-produced lard is rendered from a mixture of high-and low-quality fat sources from throughout the pig. It is typically hydrogenated (which produces trans-fats as by-product) and often treated with bleaching and deodorizing agents, emulsifiers and antioxidants, such as BHT. Such treatment makes lard shelf stable." It is for these reasons that lard should not be in pet food.

**MSG:** MSG or Mono Sodium Glutamate is a flavour enhancer used to disguise inferior food quality. It is known to cause potential brain and eye damage, and allergic reactions in humans. (Dr Corinne Chapman, Rocky Ridge Vet Care).

**Oat Flour:** Oat flour is the soft, finely ground and bolted meal obtained from the milling of oats. It consists essentially of the starch and gluten of the endosperm. Oat flour is an undesirable ingredient because there is very little nutrition left due to processing.

**Rice:** Rice is a grain. Rice is sometimes used to soothe the GI tract of the animal but it must be made into a mush (congee) for it to be of any benefit. Brown organic rice should be used.

**Rye Flour:** Rye flour consists principally of the soft, finely ground and bolted meal obtained from milling rye kernel. It consists essentially of the starch and gluten of the endosperm. Flour is an undesirable ingredient because there is very little nutrition because of processing, but mainly because many animals are allergic to it.

**Soybean Oil:** Soybean oil is obtained by extracting oil from soybeans for soy oil often come from GMO (genetically modified) soy and do not contain adequate amounts of essential fatty acids, as other oils. Soy is also a common allergen (any substance, usually a protein, capable of inducing an allergy).

**Spelt Flour:** The same as Kamut.

**Sugar:** This sweet substance is also referred to as sucrose. Sugar is derived from either sugar cane or from sugar beets. Sugar is addictive, contains no nutrition, contributes to immune system problems, cancer, and diabetes in our companion pets.

**Wheat:** Wheat is the entire wheat kernel of the cultivated wheat plant. Products made from whole kernel (non-fractionated), still have their nutrients in tact, including protein, carbohydrates, and B vitamins. Wheat however, is not very digestible and is used in lower quality foods because it is cheap.

**Preservatives:**

**BHA and BHT:** These synthetic chemicals preservatives may be potentially toxic to kidneys and have been banned for use in human food products manufactured in Canada. Some products manufactured from the USA for

human consumption now contain these preservatives. These preservatives have been shown to have carcinogenic properties. (Dr. Corinne Chapman, Rocky Ridge Vet Care)

**Ethoxyquin:** Ethoxyquin is a powerful synthetic chemical preservative known to be highly carcinogenic. It was originally used as an **insecticide and pesticide**, as well as a **rubber stabilizer**. Remember that preservatives extend the shelf life of artificial pet food for years.

**Propyl Gallate:** Propyl Gallate is a synthetic chemical preservative linked to liver damage and has been shown to have carcinogenic properties.

**Propylene Glycol:** Propylene Glycol is a synthetic chemical preservative and flavour enhancer linked to kidney damage. Also used as a less toxic version of the sweet-tasting chemical found in anti-freeze and brake fluid solvents. (Dr. Corinne Chapman, Rocky Ridge Vet Care)

**Yellow 5:** Also known as E102, Tartrazine, FD&C Yellow 5, E110 or C.1.19140. This is a synthetic additive derived from coal tar, used as a colourant. Pets don't need colour added into their food, not only is it potentially harmful, but also completely unnecessary. Human consumption of Yellow 5 can lead to various allergic reactions including anxiety, migraines, clinical depression, blurred vision, itching, general weakness, feeling of suffocation, purple skin patches, and sleep disturbances. In children, asthma attacks and hives have been claimed, including possible links to thyroid, tumors, chromosomal damage, hives and hyperactivity. Imagine what it does to our pets that can not tell us that the food we are feeding them is killing them.

**Yellow 6:** Also known as Sunset Yellow, Orange Yellow S, FD&C or C.I. 15985. This is a synthetic additive derived from coal tar, used as a colorant. It is potentially harmful. Yellow 6 can cause allergic reactions including gastric upset, vomiting, rash and swelling of the skin.

You should always check the ingredient list on any cat and dog food that you purchase. If you do not recognize an ingredient, contact the company and ask them to give you all the information about the ingredients then do some more research to confirm the information.

Feeding your cat and dog a Species-Appropriate Diet is an INVESTMENT in their long term health and well being and not an EXPENSE.