

# Can Dogs Be Vegan?

## What About Chew Treats?

Dogs have a natural desire to chew, but they don't need to chew on dead animal body parts to satisfy this need.

When shopping for chew treats, "all natural" should be a red flag. It probably means that the product came from an animal. Common chew treats include:

- Dried bulls' penises (or "bully sticks")
- Animal bones
- Cow hooves and tracheas
- Pigs' ears

Next time you see a bin of pigs' ears in a pet store, imagine the smart, friendly animals those ears were once attached to.

Some of these so-called treats can be unsafe for your dog, since dried animal parts are often brittle with jagged edges. Plenty of safe, animal-friendly alternatives are available.



## The Environmental Impact of Your Pet's Diet

The popularity of documentaries such as "Cowspiracy" highlight a growing concern about the impacts of modern animal agriculture on the environment.

Producing meat requires more land, water, and energy than producing plant-based food.

With more people and pets entering the world all the time, we can't ignore the environmental effects of the pet food industry.

*"Did you know that a quarter of all the meat consumed in the United States is eaten by our pets? That's equivalent to the amount devoured by 26 million Americans..."*

*— "The Clean Pet Food Revolution: How Better Pet Food Will Change the World"*



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The Surprising Benefits of a Plant-Based Diet for Your Dog

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As plant-based diets continue to grow in popularity, people are starting to take a closer look at their pets' diets, too.

Our supermarkets now stock plant-based alternatives for our favorite foods, and we are tossing aside outdated ideas about nutrition. Despite what we may have been told, we don't actually need to eat animals to get enough protein nor drink cow's milk to get enough calcium.

If we were misinformed about our own dietary requirements, could we also be misinformed about what our dogs need?

*"While it's commonly believed that dogs are carnivores like their wolf ancestors, meaning that they must eat meat to survive, this is incorrect. Canine digestive systems are quite capable of digesting and deriving nutrients from fruits and vegetables."*

— Hill's Pet Nutrition

**Important! Always consult your vet or veterinary nutritionist to ensure that your dog's diet is nutritionally complete!**

## Common Questions

### Q: Will my dog get enough protein?

Dogs need protein, but it doesn't have to come from meat. Plant foods like peas, lentils, and chickpeas are high in protein and easily digestible for dogs. Dog food companies have been using these plant-based protein sources for decades.

### Q: Is a vegan diet better for my dog's health?

Dogs can not only survive but may also thrive on a vegan diet. A vegan diet is allergy-friendly, easily digestible, anti-inflammatory, energy boosting, and helpful for weight management.

### Q: Will my dog experience a vitamin or mineral deficiency?

Commercial vegan dog food is designed to be nutritionally balanced. If you feed your dog homemade meals, you may need to give your dog supplements.

## Making the Switch

The key to making any dietary change successful is to do it gradually. Introduce the new food a little at a time, so that your dog can adjust to the change.

A gradual approach can work for changing our own diets, too! Perhaps you want to stop eating animals but can't imagine making this change. You could begin gradually, for example, by changing what you eat for breakfast.

## Vegan Dog Food Options

A number of companies offer well-formulated, high-quality vegan food for dogs.

And as more people discover that their dogs can thrive on a vegan diet, we can expect to see more choice and innovation in plant-based pet foods.

*It has never been easier for you and your dog to eat a healthy diet that is kind to all animals — not just our pets.*

