



www.luvhappytails.com

What exactly is in your dog food? What exactly are the ingredients you are looking for, or should avoid?
Italics are author remarks.

Ingredients you should avoid are shown in red.

ANIMAL FAT - Animal Fat is obtained from the tissues of mammals and/or poultry in the commercial processes of rendering or extracting. It consists predominantly of glyceride esters of fatty acids and contains no additions of free fatty acids. If an antioxidant is used, the common name or names must be indicated, followed by the words "used as a preservative". *Any kind of animal can be included such as 4D animals (dead, diseased, dying or disabled), goats, pigs, horses, rats, road kill, euthanized pets, restaurant and supermarket refuse and used grease. Inferior to chicken fat and/or vegetable oil.*

Animal Digest - Animal digest is a material which results from chemical and/or enzymatic hydrolysis of clean and undecomposed animal tissue. The animal tissues used shall be exclusive of hair, horns, teeth, hooves and feathers, except in such trace amounts as might occur unavoidably in good factory practice. *A broth composed of unknown parts of unknown animals as in animal fat, above. Used as a flavor source.*

Beef - Beef is the clean flesh derived from slaughtered cows and is limited to that part of the striate muscle which is skeletal or that which is found in the tongue, in the diaphragm, in the heart, or in the esophagus; with or without the accompanying and overlying fat and the portions of the skin, sinew, nerve, and blood vessels which normally accompany the flesh. *Should always be followed by "beef meal" in the ingredient list.*

Beef Meal - Beef meal is the rendered product from beef tissues, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents, except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices. *"Beef", with moisture removed. Should be first ingredient, or second after "Beef".*

Beef & Bone Meal - Beef & bone meal is the rendered product from beef tissues, including bone, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents, except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices. By-product made from beef parts not suitable for human consumption. *This is an inexpensive, low-quality ingredient used to boost the protein percentage.*

Beef Tallow - Beef tallow is obtained from the tissue of cattle in the commercial process of rendering. Highly palatable, very cheap, poorly digestible and very low in linoleic acid. *Inferior product compared to chicken fat or quality vegetables.*

Beet Pulp - Beet pulp is the residue from sugar beets which has been cleaned, freed from crowns, leaves, and sand, and extracted in the process of manufacturing sugar. *Controversial ingredient, believe to contribute to excessive red eye-staining. Added as an artificial stool-hardener. No nutritional value.*

BHA/BHT - BHA/BHT is short for Butylated Hydroxyanisole (BHA) and Butylated Hydroxytoluene (BHT),

both of which are chemical preservatives. *Chemical preservatives banned in human use in many countries. Often associated with dry/itchy skin and associated with liver disease.*

Blueberries - Blueberries are the edible fruit of the blueberry bush. *A good source of fiber.*

Brewer's Rice - Brewer's rice is the small milled fragments (5/164ths of an inch) of rice kernels that have been separated from the larger kernels of milled rice. *"Dust" and "floor sweepings" from rice. Cheap with very low nutritional value & used as a filler.*

Chicken - Chicken is the clean combination of flesh and skin with or without accompanying bone, derived from the parts or whole carcasses of chicken - exclusive of feathers, heads, feet, and entrails. *A good source of protein, but weighed before processing so is used to fool the consumer into thinking there is a lot of chicken. Chicken meal is a superior ingredient.*

Chicken By-Product Meal - Chicken by-product meal consists of the dry, ground, rendered, clean parts of the carcass of slaughtered chicken, such as necks, feet, undeveloped eggs, and intestines - exclusive of feathers except in such amounts as might occur unavoidably in good processing practices. *Cheap and of inconsistent quality with poor nutritional value.*

Chicken Fat - Chicken fat is obtained from the tissues of chickens in the commercial process of rendering or extracting. *Very high in linoleic acid, which is important for skin & coat. Far superior to animal fat.*

Chicken Meal - Chicken meal is the dry rendered (cooked down) product from a combination of clean flesh and skin with or without accompanying bone, derived from the parts of whole carcasses of chicken -- exclusive of feathers, heads, feet, or entrails. *Very good source of protein, and should always be the first ingredient, or second ingredient to "chicken". The presence of chicken meal is more important than the presence of plain "chicken".*

Corn Gluten Meal - Corn gluten feed is that part of the commercial shelled corn that remains after the extraction of the larger portion of the starch, gluten, and germ by the processes employed in the wet milling manufacture of corn starch or syrup. *Inexpensive by-product of human food processing and contains some protein but is mainly used to bind food together. Hard to digest and a common cause of skin issues.*

Corn Syrup - To make corn syrup, enzymes are added to corn starch, and it is turned into a syrupy mixture of glucose, dextrose and maltose. *Completely unnecessary ingredients in pet food and are there only to entice your dog to eat the product. (Diabetes, obesity, nervousness, cataracts, tooth decay, arthritis and allergies. Pets can get addicted to foods containing sugar and it can take tremendous effort to make them eat healthier food.)*

Cottage Cheese - Cottage cheese is the result of separating milk or cream into curds and whey. The curds are drained and pressed to form the soft, white, spoonable cheese. *Excellent source of calcium, phosphorus, protein and vitamins.*

Cranberries - Cranberries grow on a low, creeping shrub with slender, wiry stems. The fruit is a berry that is larger than the leaves of the plant. It is initially white, but turns a deep red when fully ripe. *Regular consumption of cranberries has been linked to better urinary tract health.*

Duck - Duck is the clean combination of flesh and skin with or without accompanying bone, derived from the parts or whole carcasses of duck or a combination thereof - exclusive of feathers, heads, feet and entrails. *Good source of proteins and amino acids. Should be followed in the ingredient list by "duck meal".*

Duck Meal - Duck meal is the dry rendered (cooked down) product from a combination of clean flesh and skin with or without accompanying bone, derived from the parts of whole carcasses of duck -- exclusive of feathers, heads, feet, or entrails. *Superior to "duck", it is weighed after it has been cooked down.*

Eggs - Egg is the part or whole of the reproductive body produced by hens. *Good source of protein.*

Ethoxyquin - Ethoxyquin is a chemical preservative that is not approved for human use. *Possibly carcinogenic and regulated by the FDA as a pesticide.*

Fish Meal - Fish meal is the clean, rendered (cooked down), dried ground tissue of undecomposed whole fish or fish cuttings, either or both, with or without the extraction of part of the oil. Unspecified fish source is ambiguous. *Not a bad ingredient, it is still less desirable than a named fish meal like "salmon" or "herring" meal.*

Flaxseed - Flaxseed is the whole seed of the flax plant. Aids in digestions as well as a good source of Omega fatty acids which are necessary for skin & coat health.

Grain Fermentation Solubles - Grain fermentation solubles are the dried material resulting from drying the water soluble materials after separation of suspended solids from grain fermentation. *Inexpensive by-product of the human food processing industry. Little to no nutritional value.*

Herring Oil - Herring oil is the oil extracted from whole herring. *Rich in Omega-3 fatty acids, essential for healthy skin and beautiful coats.*

Inulin - A tasteless white polysaccharide found especially dissolved in the sap of the roots and rhizomes of composite plants. *A prebiotic fiber source that helps reduce gas, stool odor, and risks of colitis.*

Lamb - Lamb consists of lamb tissue, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents. *Weighed before processing, lamb should be followed by "lamb meal" in the ingredients list.*

Lamb Meal - Lamb meal is the dry rendered (cooked down) product from lamb tissues, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices. *"Lamb" with the moisture removed. All whole-meat lamb becomes meal before it is put into pet food.*

Meat By-Products - Meat by-products are the non-rendered, clean parts, other than meat, derived from slaughtered mammals. It includes, but is not limited to, lungs, spleen, kidneys, brain, livers, blood, bone, partially defatted low temperature fatty tissue, and stomachs and intestines freed of their contents. It does not include hair, horns, teeth and hoofs. *As an unnamed meat source, it can mean "any mammal". See: animal fat for more information.*

Montmorillonite Clay - French green healing clay (also a smectite). *Also, a strong absorbent of mineral, including heavy metals & other impurities & toxins preventing them from being absorbed.*

Oatmeal - Oatmeal is the dry ground product of cleaned oats with the hulls removed. *A natural and healthy grain.*

Ocean Fish Meal - Ocean fish is undecomposed whole fish or cuttings. Ocean fish meal is fish that has been ground or otherwise reduced in particle size. *Less desirable than named fish meals, it is nonetheless an acceptable ingredient.*

Peanut Hulls - Peanut hulls consist of the outer hull of the peanut shell. *No nutritional value and used as an inexpensive filler.*

Propylene Glycol - Used in anti-freeze, hydraulics, and as a humectant in semi-moist kibble to keep them from drying out. *Should not be eaten daily as part of your pet's diet. Sweet tasting, animals love it.*

Quinoa - Quinoa is a pigweed whose seeds are ground and widely used as food. It is not a true cereal grain, but the botanical fruit of an herb plant. *Source of protein and other nutrients.*

Rice Flour - Rice flour consists principally of the soft, finely ground and bolted meal obtained from milling rice (containing essentially the starch and gluten of the endosperm) together with fine particles of rice bran and the offal from the 'tail of the mill.' *A grain fraction, often the leftover dust from the human processing industry.*

Salmon - There is currently no official AAFCO definition for salmon. *Rich in Omega 3 fatty acids, essential for skin and coat health.*

Soy Protein Concentrate - Soy protein concentrate is the clean dehulled soybean seeds that have had most of the oil and water soluble non-protein constituents removed. *A lower quality protein source. Soy has been linked to allergic reactions and itchy skin.*

Soybean Mill Run - Soybean mill run is composed of soybean hulls and such bean meats that adhere to the hulls which results from normal milling operations in the production of dehulled soybean meal. *"Floor sweepings" used as a cheap filler.*

Sun-cured Alfalfa Meal - Suncured alfalfa meal is the aerial portion of the alfalfa plant, reasonably free of other crop plants, weeds and mold, which has been suncured and finely ground. *Full of antioxidants and vitamins.*

Tapioca - Used as a low-allergen binder in grain-free foods.

Wheat Mill Run/Middlins - Wheat Mill Run and Middlings consist of coarse and fine particles of wheat bran and fine particles of wheat shorts, wheat germ, wheat flour and offal from the "tail of the mill". *"Floor sweepings", a cheap filler ingredient.*

Yogurt - There is no official definition of yogurt by AAFCO. *Excellent source of calcium and protein.*