

# PET FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES

## PET OWNERS –

### SUMMARY VERSION

#### Safe Pet Food

Safe pet food should possess good and consistent quality. It is usually cooked or heated to a sufficiently high temperature to kill bacteria, thereby preventing food poisoning in pets. If used as the main diet, it should provide all the nutrients that a pet needs. When purchasing, check the product packaging for terms such as “Complete & Balanced”.

#### Choosing Pet Food

**Professional Qualifications:** Priority can be given to brands that have a professional team, reliable contact details, have conducted scientific product research or trials, and whose manufacturing plants hold HACCP or ISO certifications.

**Life Stage:** Choose products based on your pet’s age (kitten/puppy, adult, senior) to avoid nutritional imbalances caused by long-term feeding of an unsuitable formula.

**Standards:** Priority to be given to products that meet nutritional standards established by recognized international bodies such as the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) or the European Pet Food Industry Federation (FEDIAF), or relevant authorities in the country of origin, for example, the relevant national standards of the Chinese Mainland.

#### Buying Pet Food

**Reliable Sources:** Purchase from reputable stores, official websites, authorized distributors or retailers, and veterinary clinics. Avoid buying from unknown or unverified online platforms or sales channels.

**Packaging Information:** Ensure the food is suitable for your pet's species and life stage, and check the expiration date.

#### Using and Handling Pet Food

**Read Labels Carefully:** Follow the feeding amounts, frequencies, and storage instructions recommended by the manufacturer or veterinarian.

**Good Hygiene:** Wash your hands thoroughly before and after handling pet food. Use dedicated feeding utensils and clean them thoroughly after each use.

**Switch Food Gradually:** Follow the transition guide on the packaging or use a 7-day transition period to gradually switch the food to avoid pet indigestion (75%→50%→25%→0% old food).

#### Storing Pet Food

**Follow Manufacturer Storage Instructions:** Store in a cool, dry place away from heat, direct sunlight, or high humidity. Keep refrigerated products between 0°C and 4°C, and frozen products at -18°C or below.

**Dry, Wet and Canned Food:** Store dry food in its original packaging inside an airtight container for easy access to packaging information. Do not leave opened wet or canned food at room temperature for extended periods. Any leftovers should be handled properly, such as by refrigerating or discarding them.

#### Pet Food Showing Abnormalities

**Warning Signs:** If the pet food shows signs of unusual odor, mold growth, discoloration, or damaged packaging, stop using it immediately. Keep the receipt for follow-up.

#### Raw Pet Food

**Associated Risks:** Raw meat often contains bacteria, such as Salmonella and E. coli, so feeding raw pet food may pose a higher risk of bacterial contamination to your pets or household members.

**Risk Assessment:** If you are considering feeding raw pet food to your pet, consult your veterinarian first. Unless specifically instructed by a veterinarian, raw meat pet food should be avoided for puppies, kittens, senior pets, pregnant pets, or those with weakened immune systems.

**Handling Food:** Avoid leaving raw pet food at room temperature for extended periods. Do not rinse raw meat to prevent bacteria from splashing. Never refreeze food once thawed. Thoroughly clean your hands after handling raw food.

**Cross-Contamination:** Use a dedicated cutting board and preparation area to avoid contact with human food. Thoroughly clean and disinfect all surfaces and tools that come into contact with raw pet food. Avoid kissing your pet on the mouth after feeding.