

2018 PET FOOD LIST

The following is a list of pet foods approved for Passover 2018 when produced in the U.S. Products with identical names from foreign countries may have different formulations, thus compromising their Passover status. Since formulas are subject to change, make sure to check all labels. There should be no *chometz* listed. A product listing both meat and dairy ingredients may not be used any time during the year. (See “Feeding Your Pet: Barking Up the Right Tree” at www.star-k.org for more information)

CATS

Blue Wilderness Grain Free (dry): Adult (Duck, Indoor Chicken, Rabbit, Red Meat, Salmon, Trout, Weight Control), Kitten (Chicken)

Evanger’s: When bearing cRc Passover approval.

Friskies (canned): Paté Chicken and Tuna Dinner, Paté Classic Seafood Entrée, Paté Country Style Dinner, Paté Mariners Catch, Paté Salmon Dinner

Kirkland (Costco) (dry): Healthy Weight Indoor Adult, Maintenance Chicken & Rice, Natures Domain Salmon Meal & Sweet Potato

Merrick Grain Free Limited Ingredient Diet (canned): Real Chicken, Real Duck, Real Salmon, Real Turkey

Merrick Purrfect Bistro Grain-Free (dry): Adult (Healthy Weight, Real Chicken), Healthy Senior

Merrick Purrfect Bistro Grain-Free (canned): Chicken Casserole, Chicken Divan, Salmon Paté, Tuna Paté

Prescription Diet: a/d, d/d except duck, m/d canned only, r/d, s/d, t/d, zd.

Wellness Core Grain-Free (dry): Adult, Indoor, Kitten, Original

Wellness Core Grain-Free Clasic Paté (canned): Indoor, Kitten, Whitefish & Salmon & Herring

FISH

Fish food and vacation blocks often contain *chometz*. The following are acceptable: Zoo Med Laboratories Giant Plankton Banquet Block Feeder and Tetra Tropical Slow Release Gel Feeders (Tetra Weekend 5 days, and Tetra Vacation 14 days). Goldfish and tropical fish can be given the following items, provided they do not contain fillers: tubular worms, frozen brine shrimp, and freeze dried worms.

BIRDS

(Parrots, Parakeets, Cockatiels, Macaws)

STAR-K expresses appreciation to Dr. Aaron Weissberg for his assistance in preparing the following guidelines.

- Millet and sorghum as main diet.
- Peanuts, sunflower seeds, and safflower seeds can be given.
- Larger birds such as parrots can eat pure alfalfa pellets (make sure it is pure alfalfa since it is common to add grains) or dry dog food (see above for list).
- Smaller birds can also have pure alfalfa pellets; crush before feeding.
- Can supplement with cottage cheese, rice cakes (birds like to eat these), small pieces of lean meat, *matzah*, berries, eggs, canned baby fruits. All large food should be shredded before serving. These items should be given sparingly.
- For minerals, can have oyster shells (calcium) or mineral block.
- The greater the variety, the better.

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DOGS

Alpo Chop House (canned): Filet Mignon and Bacon Flavors cooked in Savory Juices, Prime Rib Flavor cooked in Savory Juices, Roasted Chicken and Top Sirloin Flavors cooked in Savory Juices, T-Bone Steak and Ribeye Flavors cooked in Savory Juices

Blue Freedom Grain Free (dry): Adult (Lamb, Chicken), Small Breed Puppy, Chicken

Blue Freedom Grain Free (canned): Chicken Recipe (Small Breed, Puppy), Grillers (Hearty Beef, Hearty Lamb, Hearty Chicken, Hearty Turkey)

Blue Wilderness Grain Free (dry): Adult Chicken Recipe, Adult Duck Recipe, Adult Salmon Recipe, Puppy Chicken Recipe, Senior Chicken Recipe, Small Breed Adult Chicken Recipe,

Blue Wilderness Grain Free (canned): Duck & Chicken Grill, Salmon & Chicken Grill, Turkey & Chicken Grill

Evangers: When bearing cRc Passover approval.

Hills Ideal Balance Grain Free (dry): Adult Natural Chicken & Potato

Mighty Dog: (canned no gravy): Chicken Egg & Bacon Country Platter, Chicken & Smoked Bacon Combo, Hearty Beef Dinner, With Lamb and Rice.

Prescription Diet: a/d, d/d, h/d, n/d, s/d, u/d, r/d.

Science Diet Grain Free (dry): Adult (Chicken & Potato)

Wellness Core Grain Free (dry): Ocean, Original, Reduced Fat, Small Breed.

Wellness Core Grain Free (canned): Beef & Venison & Lamb, Puppy, Turkey & Chicken Liver & Turkey Liver, Whitefish & Salmon & Herring

Wellness Core Grain Free Ninety Five Percent (canned): Beef with Carrots, Chicken with Broccoli, Turkey with Spinach

GECKO

Gecko: Repashy Crested Gecko Meal Replacement Powder

HAMSTERS, GUINEA PIGS, GERBILS & RABBITS

- Best to feed pure alfalfa pellets. Make sure it is pure alfalfa since it is common to add grains. Dried alfalfa may also be given.
- Can supplement with mixture of cut-up fruits and vegetables – carrots, broccoli, apples, melon, kale, parsley, oranges, celery, dry corn, sunflower seeds, cabbage. Can also give some *matza*. If not accustomed to these items, give sparingly.
- Guinea pigs especially will benefit from kale, parsley and oranges.
- Hamsters especially will benefit from apples.
- Guinea pigs need vitamin C added to diet.

ADDITIONAL PET FOOD INFORMATION

- ♦ Mixes sold in stores often contain *chometz*. It is advisable for pet owners to slowly wean their pets off their regular *chometz* pet food diet. This is accomplished by mixing regular and *Pesach* food between one and two weeks prior to *Pesach* before switching completely to *Pesach* food. The ratio of regular and *Pesach* food should be changed slowly to get the animal used to the new diet. Check with your veterinarian before changing diet.
- ♦ Pure Timothy Hay is not *chometz* and may be used.

PESACH FAQs REGARDING PETS

Rabbi Zvi Goldberg, STAR-K Kashrus Administrator

Q. Are “grain-free” pet foods acceptable?

A. There has been a proliferation of “grain-free” dog and cat foods on the market. While we still recommend checking the ingredient panel on those foods, they are a good place to start your search for an appropriate food.

Q. Is it necessary to buy a new food bowl for your pet for *Pesach*?

A. No. However, the bowl used year-round should be thoroughly cleaned before *Pesach*.

Q. If I am going away for *Pesach*, what should I do with my fish?

A. Vacation blocks often have *chometz*. One can purchase a block without *chometz* or use an automatic fish feeder and fill it with non-*chometz* food.

Q. During a *Pesach* visit to the zoo, may one purchase the animal feed?

A. No. This feed is often *chometz* and should not be purchased or fed to the animals during *Pesach*.

Q. Must pet food with *chometz* be put away and sold before *Pesach*?

A. Yes.

Q. Can *kitniyos*, such as rice and beans, be fed to animals on *Pesach*?

A. Yes.

Q. What are some common *chometz* ingredients in pet food?

A. Wheat (cracked, flour, germ, gluten, ground, groats, middlings, starch), barley (cracked, flour), oats (flour, groats, hulled), pasta, rye, and brewer’s dried yeast. Any questionable ingredient should be reviewed by a competent rabbinic authority.

Q. What are some common ingredients which may be *kitniyos* but are permitted in pet food?

A. Beans, buckwheat, brewer’s rice, corn, grain sorghum (milo), millet, peanuts, peas, rice, sesame, soybeans, soy flour, and sunflower.

Q. Is pet food “with gravy” permitted?

A. Most often gravy contains *chometz*. Read the ingredient panel carefully.

Q. Are the vitamins or minerals in pet food *chometz*?

A. They may be *chometz*, but are *batel* (nullified) due to the small amount added.