

Passover Foods for Your Pets

The following is a list of pet foods approved for Passover 2010. Make sure to check all labels. There should be no *chametz* such as wheat, wheat starch, wheat gluten, barley, oats, oat fiber, pasta, rye, or brewer's yeast listed. A product listing both meat and dairy ingredients may not be used any time during the year. Feed available at zoos is often *chametz* and should not be purchased or fed to the animals on Pesach. After Pesach, pet food with *chametz* may be purchased only from stores which are non-Jewish owned (e.g. Petsmart, Petco) or Jewish owned but have sold their *chametz*.

NOTE: Mixes sold in stores often contain *chametz*. It is advisable to mix regular and Pesach food together one to two weeks before 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.

One may feed his pet any of the following items:

- CATS:** **Evanger's:** 100% Buffalo; 100% Duck; 100% Organic Chicken; 100% Pheasant; A Hunk of Beef; Whole Mackerel with Gravy;
Prescription Diet: a/d, c/d (dry only), d/d (except duck), g/d (dry only), k/d (dry only), m/d, r/d, s/d, t/d, w/d (dry only), z/d;
Science Diet: (dry) Adult Hairball Control, Adult Hairball Control Light, Adult Indoor, Adult Light, Adult Optimal Care Ocean Fish & Rice Recipe, Adult Optimal Care Original, Adult Oral Care, Adult Sensitive Skin, Mature Adult Active Longevity Original, Mature Adult Hairball Control, Mature Adult Indoor, Kitten Healthy Development Ocean Fish & Rice, Kitten Healthy Development Original, Kitten Indoor.
- DOGS:** **Evanger's:** 100% Venison for Dogs; 100% Beef for Dogs (6 oz); 100% Chicken for Dogs; 100% Buffalo; 100% Duck; 100% Organic Chicken; 100% Pheasant; A Hunk of Beef; Beef, Chicken, & Liver for Dogs; Beef with Liver for Dogs; Senior Dinner for Dogs; Whole Mackerel with Gravy; Turkey Chunks in Gravy for Dogs; Chicken Chunks Dinner in Gravy for Dogs;
Prescription Diet: a/d, c/d, d/d, g/d, h/d, i/d, j/d (dry only), k/d (dry only), l/d, n/d, r/d, s/d, t/d, u/d, w/d (dry only), z/d Low Allergen;
Science Diet: (dry) Adult Large Breed, Adult Light Large Breed, Adult Light Small Bites, Adult Light, Adult Oral Care, Adult Sensitive Skin, High Energy, Mature Adult Active Longevity, Mature Adult Large Breed, Mature Adult Small Bites, Puppy Healthy Development Original, Puppy Large Breed, Puppy Small Bites, Simple Essentials Treats Light Adult Large Biscuit with Real Chicken, Simple Essentials™ Treats Light Adult Medium Biscuit with Real Chicken, Simple Essentials™ Treats Oral Care Adult Large Nugget, Simple Essentials™ Treats Oral Care Adult Medium Nugget;
- FISH:** Fish food, including pyramid feeders, and vacation blocks often have chametz. Goldfish and tropical fish can be given tubular worms, frozen brine shrimp, and freeze-dried worms (if they do not contain fillers).

BIRDS (PARROTS, PARAKEETS, COCKATIELS, MACAWS):

- Millet, sorghum, wild bird food (check for chametz ingredients) 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 eat pure alfalfa pellets – crush before feeding.
- One can supplement with sliced grapes, cottage cheese, rice cakes (birds like 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, birds can have oyster shells (calcium) or mineral block such as Kaytee Tropical Fruit Mineral Block Treat.
- The greater the variety, the better.

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.
- One can supplement with mixture of cut-up fruits and vegetables - carrots, grapes, apples, melon, kale, parsley, oranges, celery, dry corn, sunflower seeds, cabbage. One can also give the pet some matzah. 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.

Kitniyot

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Chametz includes leavened foods, drinks and ingredients that are made from or contain wheat, rye, barley, oats or spelt. Therefore, all grain products such as breads, cereals and other breakfast foods, grain alcohol, grain vinegar and grain malts, are forbidden during Passover. Certain other foods known as *kitniyot*, such as beans, corn, peas, peanuts, rice, alfalfa sprouts, bean sprouts, green beans, mustard, canola oil, chickpeas, and the derivatives of these foods, are not eaten by Ashkenazic Jews due to their similarity to the five *chametz* grains.

For more information on foods which may be *kitniyot* see the pull-out, color-coded Shopping Guide.

≈ There are many differences in the *halachot* followed by the Ashkenazic (Jews of European descent) and Sephardic (Jews of Mediterranean, West Asian or Spanish descent) communities, and the laws of *chametz* are no exception. Some Sephardim have adopted the Ashkenazic custom of refraining from rice and *kitniyot* during Passover. Others do eat rice; however it must be checked three times prior to Passover to make absolutely certain there are no kernels of *chametz*. In

order to determine your family's customs, as well as to determine what Rabbinic certification is required on products containing *kitniyot*, it is important to contact your Orthodox Rabbi, especially one who is well-versed in the laws followed by Jews of Sephardic descent during Passover.

One should not rely on listed ingredients on the label alone to determine whether a product merely contains *kitniyot* and may be used on Passover as many times these products may contain actual undeclared *chametz*.

Do you want to find out more about kitniyot and answers to several other frequently asked questions?

You can find out more regarding many popular items and issues in the Passover "Frequently Asked Questions" section of our website at www.crcweb.org.