

PESACH PET FOOD



On Pesach, a Jew may not eat, own, or derive benefit from *chametz*, but he may own and have benefit from *kitniyos*. Accordingly, in addition to year-round concerns about meat and milk ingredients in the same product, pet food must be free of *chametz* if one will own or use it on Pesach. The following are pointers to help you read the pet food's ingredient panel to determine if there is any *chametz* present.

1. In addition to checking for the five *chametz* grains – wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt – also look for brewer's yeast, malt, pasta, xanthan gum, and other generic terms which may refer to a *chametz* ingredient (e.g., flour, gluten, middlings, starch, et al.). If any of these are present, you should not own or use this pet food on Pesach.
2. Many varieties of pet food contain a multitude of vitamins and minerals. Although there is a chance some might be *chametz*, they typically comprise such a small percentage of the food that they are *batel*, and do not pose a concern.
3. Some common ingredients which do **not** pose a Pesach concern are:
 - A. **Animal, poultry, and fish** products.
 - B. **Vegetables**, such as alfalfa, asparagus, beets, and carrots.
 - C. **Assorted *kitniyos* foods**, such as buckwheat, corn products, lentils, millet, peas, rice, peanuts, sunflower seeds, and soy products.
 - D. **Other items**, such as barley grass, BHA, BHT, carrageenan, cellulose, colors, eggs, gums (other than xanthan gum), kelp, lactose, linseed, milk products, molasses, oils, psyllium, and whey.

If you're unsure about any ingredients in a pet food, you're welcome to send your question to info@cRcKosher.org for guidance.

The following are recommendations for specific pets

To determine which of these are appropriate for your specific type of pet, please see additional guidance on our website, or check with your vet.

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| Cats and Dogs | cRc Kosher approves many varieties of Evanger's brand as being free of <i>chametz</i> (and <i>basar b'chalav</i>). See the cRc website for details. |
| Fish | tubular worms, frozen brine shrimp, and freeze-dried worms (if they do not contain fillers) |
| Birds | millet, canary grass seed, rapeseed, alfalfa pellets (pure), safflower seeds, and sunflower seeds. Supplement with sliced grapes, berries, and canned baby fruit. For minerals, use oyster shells or mineral blocks. |
| Small Mammals | millet, sunflower seeds, safflower seeds, Timothy Hay, potatoes, and small amounts of greens and vegetables. Supplement with grapes, apples, melons, and oranges. |



Be aware that **mealworms**, which, as living creatures are not *chametz*, are commonly sold in a bed of wheat flakes or oatmeal, which is *chametz*.

Whole insects (live or dead) with no additives or other ingredients are permissible.