

2023 PET FOOD LIST

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF PET FOODS APPROVED FOR PASSOVER 2023 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 at any time during the year.

See "Feeding Your Pet: Barking Up the Right Tree" at star-k.org/passover for more information.

CATS

BRAND	PRODUCT
Blue Freedom Grain-Free Indoor (canned)	Chicken for Kittens, Chicken for Cats, Fish, Flaked Chicken in Tasty <i>Gravy</i> , Chicken for Mature Cats
Evanger's	When bearing cRc Passover approval
Friskies (canned)	Paté Chicken and Tuna Dinner, Paté Classic Seafood Entrée, Paté Turkey and Giblets, Paté Country Style Dinner, Paté Mariners Catch, Paté Salmon Dinner, Paté Poultry Platter, Paté Mixed Grill, Paté Liver and Chicken Dinner
Kirkland (Costco) (dry)	Maintenance Chicken & Rice, Natures Domain Salmon & Sweet Potato
Kirkland (Costco) (canned)	Paté Grain-Free 3-Flavor Variety (Chicken, Salmon, Turkey)
Merrick Grain-Free Limited Ingredient Diet (canned)	Real Chicken, Real Duck, Real Salmon, Real Turkey, Real Tuna
Merrick Purrfect Bistro Grain-Free (dry)	Adult (Hairball Control, Weight Control, Real Chicken and Sweet Potato, Real Salmon and Sweet Potato, Sensitive Stomach), Healthy Kitten
Prescription Diet	a/d, d/d venison & green pea, r/d, s/d, t/d, z/d
Wellness Core Grain-Free (dry)	Adult, Indoor (all flavors), Kitten, Original
Wellness Core Grain-Free Classic Paté (canned)	Indoor, Kitten, Turkey & Duck, Whitefish & Salmon & Herring

FISH

Fish food and vacation blocks often contain chometz. Refer to the list below.

BRAND	PRODUCT	NOTES
Pro Balance	Vacation Feeder (3, 7, 14 days)	Acceptable
Tetra Tropical	Slow Release Feeders	While these were acceptable in the past, they have started including oatmeal in new formulations and are no longer acceptable.
Zoo Med Laboratories	Plankton Banquet Block Feeder (regular, mini, giant)	Acceptable

GOLDFISH and TROPICAL FISH can be given the following items, provided they do not contain fillers:

Freeze-dried or frozen brine shrimp (e.g., **San Francisco Bay Brand** – Freeze-Dried Brine Shrimp), Freeze-dried worms, Tubular worms

DOGS

BRAND	PRODUCT
Blue Freedom Grain-Free (canned)	Beef Recipe Adult, Chicken Recipe (Adult, Small Breed, Puppies, Senior), Grillers (Hearty Beef, Hearty Chicken, Hearty Turkey), Lamb Recipe Adult
Evangers	When bearing cRc Passover approval
Kirkland (Costco) Natures' Domain (dry)	Puppy Chicken & Pea, Salmon and Sweet Potato
Prescription Diet	a/d, d/d, h/d (canned only), s/d, u/d, r/d
Purina Pro Plan Grain-Free (canned)	Adult Beef & Pea Entrée, Adult Beef & Salmon Entrée, Adult Chicken & Carrot Entrée, Adult Turkey & Duck & Quail Entree
Wellness Core Grain-Free (dry)	Lamb, Large Breed, Large Breed Puppy, Ocean, Original, Puppy, Reduced Fat, Senior, Small Breed Healthy Weight, Small Breed Original, Small Breed Puppy, Wild Game
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, Chicken, Turkey, Lamb, Whitefish

STAR-K thanks *Julie Rabinowitz, DVM*, for helping to develop the nutritional guidelines for the following animals:

AQUATIC TURTLES

- **Flukers** – Turtle Diet for Aquatic Turtles
- Dark, leafy green vegetables (such as collard, mustard and dandelion greens, kale, bok choy, deep green lettuces, parsley)
- Finely chopped vegetables (such as bell peppers, carrots, squash, green beans)
- Goldfish
- Guppies

BEARDED DRAGONS

They can follow the same diet as Geckos, listed below, in addition to the following:

- Fruit (including kiwi, banana, mango, papaya, apple),
- Mixed vegetables (such as deep leafy greens, squash, carrots, greens)
- Calcium and Vitamin D supplementation (e.g., **Zoo Med** – Repti Calcium with D3)

NOTE: As bearded dragons age, they can move to a more vegetable-heavy diet for life.

BIRDS

BIRD TYPE/ SPECIES	RECOMMENDED FOODS	NOTES
All Birds	Fruits, vegetables, fresh herbs, cooked chicken, canned tuna, pure alfalfa pellets (crushed for small birds)	
Large Birds	Millet, sorghum, sunflower seeds	Millet is easy to acquire in bulk on Amazon.com, as well as at local pet stores, and can be fed in large quantities.
Small Birds	Millet (sorghum and sunflower seeds are too large)	Note, however, that it doesn't provide a nutritionally complete diet.
Doves, Finches, Pigeons, Sparrows	Can have dog food (see above list)	

FOR ALL BIRDS, AVOID THE FOLLOWING: apple and pear seeds; all dairy – small amount of cottage cheese is okay; all fruit pits; avocado; mushrooms; peanuts

GECKOS

Most varieties are insectivores and prefer a diet of the following offered every two to four days:

- Crickets and grasshoppers
- Earthworms, mealworms, silk worms, super worms, or waxworms
- Fruit flies
- Moths
- Roaches
- Calcium and Vitamin D supplementation (e.g., **Zoo Med** – Repti Calcium with D3)

GERBILS & HAMSTERS

- Fruits and vegetables
- Matzah
- Millet
- Puffed rice
- Pure alfalfa pellets or hay
- Pure timothy or other pure grass hay
- Raw sunflower and pumpkin seeds
- Treats

GUINEA PIGS

- **Higgins Vita Garden Grain Free** – Guinea Pig Pellets
- Need Vitamin C supplementation (e.g., **Oasis** – Vita-Drops Pure Vitamin C for Guinea pigs).
- Vegetables high in Vitamin C (e.g., broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, green and red peppers, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnip greens and other leafy greens)
- Unlimited amounts of pure timothy hay (or other pure grass hay, such as orchard grass, oat or meadow hay), leafy greens, herbs, carrot tops and chopped vegetables
- NEVER feed white potatoes to guinea pigs

RABBITS

- **Higgins Vita Garden Grain Free** – Rabbit Pellets (Junior or Adult)
- Unlimited amounts of pure timothy hay (or other pure grass hay, such as orchard grass, oat or meadow hay), leafy greens, herbs, carrot tops and chopped vegetables

ADVICE REGARDING WEANING PETS BEFORE PESACH

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 starting between one and two weeks prior to Pesach, before switching completely to Pesach food. The ratio of regular and Pesach food should be changed gradually to get the animal used to the new diet. Check with your veterinarian before changing your pet's diet.

PET STORES IN BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA WHERE CHOMETZ PET FOOD MAY BE PURCHASED AFTER PESACH

- Petco
- Petsmart

FAQS REGARDING PETS ON PESACH

Rabbi Zvi Goldberg, STAR-K Kashrus Administrator

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

A. There are many “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 contain 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. 2, 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.