

## 10 Ingredients you NEVER want to see on your pet's food labels

As a responsible pet parent, it is important to look into what is in your pet's food. Whether caused by cost-cutting, outsourcing or ignorance, there are just too many instances in which pets have suffered, or even died, because of ingredients that should not have been in their food in the first place. The following is a list of ingredients to avoid, and the reason why they are unsafe.

Soy	Soy is an inferior protein that is difficult for most pets to digest. Does not meet nutritional requirements for dogs or cats.
Animal Fat	Broad term that does not identify the type of animal it came from. Could be anything other than beef, pork, chicken or lamb.
By-Products	Another broad term, which can include ANY part of ANY animal. Not fit for human consumption.
Dried Beet Pulp & Peanut Shells	Both ingredients serve no nutritional value and are added to create firm stools. May cause dehydration and mask symptoms of diseases. Peanut shells may also contain harmful bacteria.
Ethoxyquin	Considered a pesticide by the Department of Agriculture, this artificial preservative has been banned from human consumption.
Butylated Hydroxyanisole (BHA)	Another artificial preservative, this chemical is listed as a "hazardous" by the OSHA and has been linked to cancer in humans.
Hulls – "mill run"	Hulls is a term for the waste part of the grain after the "meat" has been removed.
Menadione	Menadione is a synthetic cheaper version of Vitamin K <sub>3</sub> that can cause, among other symptoms, liver and kidney damage, as well as weakening the immune system. May appear with poly-syllable words.
Butylated Hydroxytoluene (BHT)	Another artificial preservative, this chemical is listed as a "hazardous" by the OSHA and has been linked to cancer in humans.
Appetite Stimulant	Chemicals added to pet food to stimulate it to eat more and ignore its sense of smell, which may otherwise tell it not to consume this particular food.