



Template: Dog Treats Checklist

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Based on Article: "Dog Treats"

A practical checklist for selecting healthy dog treats based on ingredient quality, safety, and nutritional value.

Checklist Items:

- ☐ **1. Check Ingredient Transparency**
Always read the ingredient list to ensure it contains named whole proteins as the first ingredient. Avoid treats with vague terms like 'meat meal' or 'animal digest'.
Reference Section: Understanding Dog Treats: Purpose & Safety
- ☐ **2. Prioritize Single-Ingredient Snacks**
Whenever possible, choose treats that are made from a single ingredient. This simplifies dietary restrictions and helps avoid allergies.
Reference Section: Types of Dog Treats: Pros and Cons
- ☐ **3. Monitor Portion Sizes for Treats**
Treats should not exceed 10% of your dog's daily caloric intake. Adjust meal portions accordingly to maintain a balanced diet.
Reference Section: Understanding Dog Treats: Purpose & Safety
- ☐ **4. Choose Treats Based on Purpose**
Select treats that suit specific functions: soft treats for training, chewy treats for enrichment, and dental treats for oral health.
Reference Section: Understanding Dog Treats: Purpose & Safety
- ☐ **5. Be Aware of Common Toxic Ingredients**
Avoid treats containing chocolate, xylitol, grapes/raisins, and macadamia nuts as these are harmful to dogs.
Reference Section: Understanding Dog Treats: Purpose & Safety
- ☐ **6. Evaluate Chew Safety**
Select appropriate sizes and types of chews to avoid choking hazards, especially for small dogs. Supervise aggressive chewers during treat time.
Reference Section: Safety and sustainability considerations
- ☐ **7. Watch for Signs of Allergies**
Monitor your dog for signs of allergic reactions, such as vomiting or itching, after introducing a new treat. Consult a veterinarian if symptoms arise.
Reference Section: Understanding Dog Treats: Purpose & Safety

☐ **8. Opt for Human-Grade Ingredients**

When available, select treats made from human-grade ingredients for better quality assurance and nutritional value.

Reference Section: Nutrition: What to Look For on Labels

☐ **9. Consider Environmental Impact**

Choose sustainably sourced treats when possible to minimize your ecological footprint while providing quality snacks for your dog.

Reference Section: Safety and sustainability considerations