



Template: Store-Bought Dog Treats Checklist

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Based on Article: "The Best Store-Bought Dog Treats: A Complete Guide"

A practical checklist for selecting the best store-bought dog treats based on nutritional value and your dog's needs.

Checklist Items:

- ☐ **1. Identify Protein Source**
Check the first three ingredients for named animal protein such as chicken or beef. Avoid vague terms like 'by-product' unless sourced responsibly.
Reference Section: How Store-Bought Treats Work (Ingredients & Nutrition)
- ☐ **2. Look for Single-Ingredient Treats**
Choose single-ingredient options, particularly for dogs with sensitivities. These treats are often easier on sensitive stomachs and allergies.
Reference Section: What Are Store-Bought Dog Treats?
- ☐ **3. Select Appropriate Texture**
Match treat texture to purpose: use small, chewy training pieces for reinforcement and longer-lasting chews for dental health or enrichment.
Reference Section: Types at a glance
- ☐ **4. Monitor Caloric Intake**
Be mindful of the calorie count of treats: choose low-calorie options (3–10 kcal) for training and higher-calorie treats for special occasions, ensuring they fit into your dog's daily calorie allowance.
Reference Section: Types at a glance
- ☐ **5. Check for Fillers**
Avoid treats with excessive fillers like corn and wheat. These can reduce protein density and may trigger allergies in some dogs.
Reference Section: How Store-Bought Treats Work (Ingredients & Nutrition)
- ☐ **6. Evaluate Preservatives**
Look for treats with natural preservatives such as mixed tocopherols instead of synthetic options like BHA/BHT, which are less favorable for long-term health.
Reference Section: How Store-Bought Treats Work (Ingredients & Nutrition)
- ☐ **7. Choose Suitable Treat Types**
Select the type of treat based on your goals—training treats for quick rewards, dental chews for oral health, and high-protein snacks for physical activity.
Reference Section: What Are Store-Bought Dog Treats?

☐ **8. Consider Dog Sensitivities**

Select treats based on known sensitivities such as grain intolerances or pancreatitis. Consult the vet or trusted resources for suitable recommendations.

Reference Section: What Are Store-Bought Dog Treats?

☐ **9. Review Brand Reputations**

Research and prefer brands that are transparent about their sourcing and ingredient quality. Check reviews and endorsements from veterinary sources.

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