

Vegetarian Diets

Dogs are indeed omnivores and have learnt to survive by eating a combination of foods, including meat, plant material, vegetables and any scavenged scraps they can find. There appears to be a difference of opinion when it comes to the issue of feeding pets a solely vegetarian diet, with some seeing this as unnatural and arguing that given the choice a wild dog would catch his meal and eat every scrap of meat and bone, whereas others could argue that dogs are now too domesticated and have adapted quite readily to pre-packed processed foods.

There are a growing number of complete diets available which meet the strict criteria to be classified as vegetarian and with the advancement of specialist research, nutritionists have been very careful to ensure that all essential nutrients are included. In some cases certain health conditions could benefit from a vegetarian diet, such as obesity, allergies, or pets with sensitive stomachs. A full health check by your vet is essential before a significant diet change, as minor ailments might be exacerbated without the correct nutrition. There's also many vegetarian, chews, treats and complimentary foods available to provide variety and much needed stimulation that dogs receive from foraging for food. Regular weight and health checks are recommended following a change of diet to ensure your veggie pet remains a picture of health.