

Are Your Pet/Specialty Pet Food Products Exempt From Regulation?

There are three basic requirements for making and selling pet/specialty pet foods in Minnesota. Pet/specialty pet food can include treats, chews, and bones. The requirements are:

- 1) You must have a Minnesota Commercial Feed License,
- 2) You must register your products with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and
- 3) Your products must be labeled correctly.

Under certain conditions, some chews, bones, and toys are exempt from the Minnesota Commercial Feed regulations. These are:

- All chews, bones, toys and exercisers made of animal skin, hide, wood or man-made material
- Hooves
- Ears
- Animal bones
- Ligaments
- Snouts
- Pizzles or bully sticks

These products are exempt from the Minnesota Commercial Feed regulations if*:

- 1) They contain no additional ingredients other than flavoring (smoking is allowed), and
- 2) The product is free of pathogens such as Salmonella or other contaminants.

NOTE: Labeling required by the Code of Federal Regulations may be applicable to these products even if exempt from Minnesota Commercial Feed regulations.

These products are NOT exempt if*:

- 1) The label or advertising makes any claim that the product is intended for use as an animal food (e.g., “food”, “treat”, “snack”, or similar designation).
- 2) The label or advertising refers to the nutritional value of the product. Examples of this include:
 - Displaying a guaranteed analysis,
 - Nutrient claims such as “high in calcium” or “high in protein,”
 - Other food claims such as “digestible” or “great source of energy.”

*See example labels on reverse page

Label Examples

Exempt



Not identified as a food, treat, snack or similar designation, no nutritional information

NOT Exempt



Identified as treats, has nutritional information

Questions?

Please contact us at 651-201-6221 or send an email to MDA.FFSDPetFood.MDA@state.mn.us

Visit our website at www.mda.state.mn.us/petfood