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

Pig Ear
Dog Chew

Ingredient: Pig Ear
Net Wt. 10 oz.

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

NOT Exempt

Spizzle Sticks
Dog Treats

High in Protein!
Ingredients: Beef Pizzle
Net Wt. 10 oz.

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