

FAQs for Pet Treats Manufacturers

Get the Facts on Pathogen Reduction
in Pet and Animal Nutrition



Introduction

Every day our Subject Matter Experts help by answering pet treats manufacturers' frequently asked questions (FAQs).

In this ebook, we've compiled the answers to the most commonly asked questions.

If your question is not answered by the time you reach the end of this eBook (where our phone number and email is found), we invite you to contact us.

Our goal is to help you arrive at the safest and most cost-effective solution to achieve your product goals.



#1 FAQ



Does Gamma irradiation reduce pathogens in pet treats and animal feed?

Doses of Gamma are shown to be effective in killing pathogens such as E.coli, Listeria and Salmonella.

“Animal feed can contain Salmonella. Irradiation can prevent the spread of these bacteria to livestock.”

—US EPA



SOURCE: United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), [website](#), paragraph 4)



#2 FAQ



Are irradiated pet treats and animal feed radioactive?

Gamma irradiated pet treats and animal feed are not radioactive. The products do not touch radioactive materials, and the energy source does not and cannot cause the feed to become radioactive.



“Products are exposed to sources of ionizing radiation that cause chemical, not nuclear, changes...”
—US EPA

SOURCE: [American Veterinary Medical Association \(AVMA\)](#) and [United States Food and Drug Administration \(US FDA\)](#)



#3 FAQ



Are irradiated treats harmful for consumption by pets?

There are no Gamma radiation-related risks from pets and animals eating irradiated treats and feed. "After the irradiation treatment with different doses, the changes of nutrient components in the feeds, such as crude fats, coarse fibres, calcium, phosphorus, salts and amino acids, were not found to change in our tests."

"Effective April 10, [2001] the FDA has approved irradiation of bagged complete diets, packaged feeds, feed ingredients, bulk feeds, and animal treats and chews such as rawhide and pig ears to prevent microbial infection in handlers of the feed and animals alike."

—US FDA

SOURCE: [A Study on Radiation Sterilization of SPF Animal Feed](#), March 2000, Radiation Physics and Chemistry



#4 FAQ



Do I need special packaging for irradiated pet treats and animal feed?

Special packaging is not required. Gamma irradiation is a non-invasive process (which means the pet and animal nutrition products are not removed from their packaging) that penetrates various types of packaging and reaches all microorganisms regardless of the intricacies of the package. Post-irradiation, there are no residuals left on the product.



#5 FAQ



Do I need to specially label pet treats and animal feeds that are irradiated?

All ingestible foods—whether for human or animal consumption—must be labelled. “Under current FDA regulations, the labels of irradiated pet foods must bear a radura symbol, accompanied by the words “treated by irradiation” or “treated with radiation.” In Europe, please contact your local authority to enquire whether your product requires labelling.



SOURCE: [Pet Food Regulations](#), Pet Food Industry

“If whole foods have been irradiated, FDA requires that the label bear the radura symbol and the phrase “treated with radiation” or “treated by irradiation.” Yet, if irradiated ingredients are added to foods that have not been irradiated, no special labeling is required on retail packages.”

—US FDA





Interested in **real-life** challenges?

Our Industry Subject Matter Experts are **expert** problem solvers.

Here's an example of a real-life challenge they've helped a customer solve.



I have a challenge

A pet treats manufacturer asked, *"My product is sold in a very distinctive-shaped package. I need it irradiated to reduce the microbial load though. What can you do?"*

Gamma irradiation is a non-invasive process, which means pet treats and animal nutrition is not removed from its packaging.



Gamma penetrates packaging and reaches all microorganisms regardless of the intricacies of the package.
Problem solved.



Did you
know?



Did you know

that lab animal diets are ***sterilized***?



Most pet treats and animal feed go through ***pathogen reduction processing*** or ***microbial reduction processing*** using Gamma radiation.

However, laboratory animal diets go through ***sterilization*** processing using Gamma radiation.



Did you know

that, in addition to being non-invasive, the Gamma irradiation process is **safe** and **cost-effective**?

The process is cost-effective and safe as there are no residuals left by the radiation, which makes Gamma irradiation ideal for pathogen reduction in pet treats, animal feed, and pet and animal supplements.

At Sterigenics , we have decades of microbial reduction expertise.



In summary, Gamma irradiation reduces pathogens

Gamma irradiation is a **non-invasive**, **safe** and **cost-effective** process to reduce the microbial load in:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ANIMAL ORIGIN PET TREATS | NATURAL PET TREATS including dog chews, jerky and bully sticks, pig ears |
| ANIMAL/PET SUPPLEMENTS | DAIRY POWDER FOR FEED |
| BIRDSEED FOR PETS AND WILD BIRDS | ANIMAL FEED INGREDIENTS |



From product conception to commercialization, each stage in the life cycle of pet treats and animal feed products can be extremely challenging. Since there are many considerations, it's best to collaborate with a **Sterigenics Industry Subject Matter Expert** to ensure your unique product goal is achieved.

Here's how we can help you:

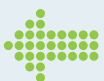
- Customized solutions to help ensure secure, safe, and effective processing
- A global integrated network of facilities located near your manufacturing or distribution hubs
- High-quality and consistent processes that exceed safety standards
- Industry Subject Matter Experts to assist in solution development
- Expedited product processing services



How can we help you?

Call Us
+1 (518) 812-7779

[CONTACT US](#)



Safeguarding Global Health[®] with every product we sterilize

We are over 1600 engineers, scientists, safety specialists, and solution providers focused on eliminating threats to health.

We have global breadth and more than 90 years of deep expertise across Gamma, E-Beam and X-Ray technologies. Our operations span 45 facilities in 13 countries to ensure we are the “point of safe” for our customers.



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