



## WHAT ARE ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

INGREDIENTS THAT HELP CREATE A SUSTAINABLE, CIRCULAR FOOD SYSTEM

When we think about the food system, our minds often jump to staples like meat, dairy, and eggs. However, animal by-products are the unsung heroes driving efficiency and providing the opportunity to reduce impact.

In the pet food industry, many of our ingredients are by-products from the human food chain. These ingredients play a crucial role in creating a sustainable, circular food system while enabling us to make affordable, nutritious, and planet-friendly pet foods.

### WHAT ARE ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS (ABPS)?

These by-products come from the same animals that provide meat, dairy, and eggs, ensuring that as much of the animal as possible is used, minimising waste. Ingredients typically used include organs and offal, ground bones, and fat. They are legally referred to as Category 3 animal by-products.

### REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR MEAT SOURCING IN PET FOOD

There are **strict regulations** on what ingredients can be used in pet food and the standards they must meet. For instance, all ingredients must come from animals that have passed veterinary inspections as fit for human consumption. They must also come from registered suppliers.

The priority of the pet food manufacturer is to source nutritionally valuable ingredients to produce high quality and nutritious pet foods.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING BY-PRODUCTS?

#### Nutritional value of by-products

Animal by-products are used to produce nutrient-dense foods. Organ meats, for instance, are rich in vitamins and minerals including B vitamins, iron and zinc. They also supply essential fatty acids like omega-3 and omega-6, supporting skin health, coat condition, and brain function.

#### To make the food taste good to our pets

Animal by-products improve the taste and palatability of pet food, which is important for creating appealing meals for pets. This helps reduce waste while ensuring pets get the necessary nutrition.

#### Reducing waste and resource efficiency

Using by-products maximises the use of the entire animal and doesn't compromise the food supply for people. By processing and repurposing these materials, the agricultural industry can ensure that fewer resources are discarded or sent to landfill, aligning with principles of circular economy and waste minimisation.

#### Economic value

Animal by-products contribute to the economic viability of the livestock industry. By finding markets and uses for these materials, farmers and producers can add value to their operations, supporting livelihoods and local economies.

#### TO SUM UP!

Animal by-products are indispensable in creating a sustainable and circular food system. By repurposing parts of animals that would otherwise be wasted, we enhance the efficiency of the food chain, support agricultural sustainability, and provide nutritious diets for pets. Embracing these by-products not only aligns with the principles of sustainability but also ensures that we make the most out of every resource, contributing to a healthier planet and a more efficient food system.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON PET FOOD INGREDIENTS CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.UKPETFOOD.ORG](http://WWW.UKPETFOOD.ORG)