

THE CLEAN SIXTEEN®

2026's Highest-Rated Dog Foods for Purity

The Clean Label Project® analyzed 79 of the nation's top-selling dog food products to uncover what traditional nutrition labels miss: hidden contaminants like heavy metals, phthalates, acrylamide, and plastic residues.

After over 11,000 tests across dry, freeze-dried, and fresh/frozen dog foods, these products rose to the top—delivering exceptional purity and safety for your four-legged family member.

clean
label
PROJECT®
Clean. Pure. Science.

- Fresh/Frozen Food Wins:** Fresh/Frozen dog food had significantly lower contaminant levels—up to 21x less lead and 20x less mercury than dry dog food.
- Dry Food Concerns:** Dry dog food contained 5.7x more arsenic, 12.7x more lead, and 24x more acrylamide than fresh/frozen alternatives—likely due to meat by-products, mineral premixes, and high-heat processing.
- Human-Grade Matters:** Products labeled "human-grade" or using fresh, whole ingredients consistently tested cleaner across all contaminant categories.
- No Federal Standards:** There are no comprehensive federal regulations on heavy metals in dog food—making independent testing like this essential for pet owners.

What Makes These Dog Foods Stand Out?

- Lowest levels of heavy metals, phthalates, and acrylamide
- Exceptional performance across all six contaminant panels tested
- Commitment to fresh, whole ingredients and transparent sourcing
- Fresh/Frozen and low-temperature cooked products that minimize processing contaminants



Whether you're feeding a puppy or a senior, these are the best choices for a **cleaner, safer bowl**.



CARU



Real Beef Stew
Grain-Free Wet
Dog Food
Fresh/Frozen

FARMER'S DOG



Beef
Fresh/Frozen

FRESHPET



Select Fresh From
The Kitchen Home
Cooked Chicken
Fresh/Frozen

FRESHPET



Custom Meals Beef & Chicken Recipe
Fresh/Frozen

HILL'S



Science Diet
Small & Mini
Dry

JINX



Homemade Beef & Chicken
Fresh/Frozen

JUSTFOODFORDOGS



Turkey & Whole Wheat
Macaroni Recipe
Fresh/Frozen

JUSTFOODFORDOGS



Lamb & Brown
Rice Recipe
Fresh/Frozen

MAEV



Raw Food - Variety
Fresh/Frozen

NULO



Gently-Cooked
Meals Turkey & Green
Beans Recipe
Fresh/Frozen

NULO



Gently-Cooked Meals
Duck & Quinoa Recipe
Fresh/Frozen

OLIE



Pork
Fresh/Frozen

PET PLATE



Barkin' Beef Entree
Fresh/Frozen

RAISED RIGHT



Beef & Pumpkin Pate
Fresh/Frozen

SOLID GOLD



Nutrient Boost
Dry

WE FEED RAW



Chicken
Fresh/Frozen

© 2026 Clean Label Project®. All rights reserved.

This document is for educational and informational purposes only. Product images are used under fair use guidelines for commentary, comparison, and consumer education. Clean Label Project has not received sponsorship or endorsement from the brands featured. All data reflects independent testing conducted in 2025 across six contaminant categories: Heavy Metals, Phthalates, BPA/BPS, Pesticides, Glyphosate, and Acrylamide. No products listed have received Clean Label Project certification unless otherwise noted. Rankings are based solely on cumulative contamination scores and are not an endorsement of nutritional value or product claims.



cleanlabelproject.org



CleanLabelProject



@cleanlabelproject