

Pet Food Safety Act: Labeling Checklist

April 2024

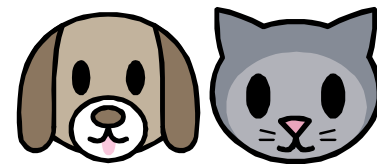
The Pet Food Safety Act mandates that the following five items be labeled in Japanese.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| (1) Name of pet food | (2) Best before date | (3) Ingredient Name |
| (4) Country of origin | (5) Business operator's name or title and address | |

Reference: Labelling example

- 犬用の〇〇ペットフード
 - 賞味期限: 袋の底に年月で印字
(最初の4ケタが西暦年、次の2ケタが月)
 - 原材料名: 穀類(とうもろこし、小麦)、肉類(ビーフ、チキン)、野菜類(ほうれん草、にんじん)、ミネラル類(P、Ca)、ビタミン類(A、B₂、C)、酸化防止剤(ミックストコフェロール)
 - 原産国名: 日本
 - 製造者: ABCペットフード株式会社
〒100-0000 東京都千代田区〇町1-2
- 犬用総合栄養食
 - 内容量: 10kg
 - 与え方:
成犬体重1kgあたり1日〇〇gを目安として、1日の給与量を2回以上に分けて与えてください。
 - 成分:
たんぱく質18%以上、脂質5%以上、粗繊維5%以下、灰分8%以下、水分12%以下

Use the checklists on the following pages to correctly indicate the five required items!



Other optional items may be indicated in addition to the five items.

For example, under the "Fair Competition Code Concerning Labeling of Pet Food," approved by the Japan Fair Trade Commission and the Consumer Affairs Agency, recommends the indication of additional items—such as purpose, net weight, feeding instructions, and ingredients—beyond the five items mandated by the Pet Food Safety Act. Members of the Pet Food Fair Trade Association indicate these additional items as well.

Pet Food Safety Act: Labeling Checklist



(1) Name of pet food

☐ The product name on the front of the package must be in Japanese, clearly indicating that it is pet food for dogs or cats. (Names such as "~~FOR DOGS" or "~~DOG FOOD" in English are not acceptable)

or

☐ The label section displays “犬用” (for dog) or “猫用” (for cat)

○成犬用総合栄養食 (Comprehensive nutritional food for adult dogs)

○子猫用栄養補助食品 (Nutritional supplement for kittens)

× ペット用スナック (Snack for pets)

(2) Best before date

☐ The item title “賞味期限” (best before date) is indicated in Japanese.

☐ The best before date is displayed in YYYY/MM or YYYY/MM/DD format (e.g., 2024 08).

(Note) An explanation is required if the order is not year, month, and day (e.g., 08 2024. The first two digits represent the month, and the following four digits represent the year).

☐ The month is indicated in numbers or Japanese,
or

☐ Indicated in English, but with a clear explanation.

e.g., 15 NOV 23

The alphabet letters represent the months, with JAN for January, FEB for February, ... and DEC for December. The first two digits indicate the "day," the following letter indicates the "month," and the last two digits represent the "last two digits of the year."

Pet Food Safety Act: Labeling Checklist

(3) Ingredient Name

☐ The item title "原材料名" (Ingredient Name) or "原材料" (Ingredients) is listed.

☐ In principle, all ingredients used (including additives) are listed in Japanese.

(Note) Display of so-called processing aids may be omitted. Please refer to the Q&A on labeling under the Pet Food Safety Act on MAFF's website.

The following applies only if applicable:

☐ A name listed in Table 1 is used if there are ingredients displayed only by category name (e.g., "肉類" (Meat)).

☐ If the additives for specific purposes listed in Table 2 are used, then both the additive name and the intended use are indicated.

e.g. Antioxidants (mixed tocopherols)

↑

Name of use

↑

Name of additive

☐ The name listed in Table 3 is used if there are additives displayed only by a collective name (e.g., "イーストフード" (Yeast Food)).

☐ If the label displays only as "ビタミン類" (Vitamins), "ミネラル類" (Minerals), or "アミノ酸類" (Amino Acids), then it is confirmed that the pet food's net weight is 100g or less for canned products or the available display surface is 120 cm² or less.

Table 1

Cereal	Mushrooms
Potatoes	Algae
Starch	Fish and shellfish
Sugar	Meat
Nuts	Eggs
Beans	Dairy
Vegetables	Fats/oils
Fruits	

Table 2: Use

Sweetener	Thickening agent
Coloring agent	Antioxidant
Preservative	Color former

1. For "Coloring agent," if the additive substance name includes the character for "Color" (色), the intended use name may be omitted from the label.

2. For "Thickening agent," if multiple polysaccharides are used, they may be labeled as "Thickening polysaccharides," and the additive substance name can be omitted from the label.

Table 3: Collective Name

Yeast food	Flavoring agent	Bittering agent
Lye water	Acidifier	Emulsifier
Enzyme	Seasoning	pH adjuster
Glazing agent	Tofu coagulant	Leavening agent

The Pet Food Safety Act does not specifically regulate the order in which ingredients should be listed. However, from the perspective of providing appropriate information to consumers, it is preferable to list them in descending order by quantity.

1. For "Fish and shellfish," when only raw materials derived from fish are used, then it may be labeled as "Fish."
2. For "Meat," it may be labeled as "Livestock meat."
3. When only raw materials derived from poultry are used, it may be labeled as "Poultry."

(Notification No. 2236, issued by the Director-General of the Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) and Notification No. 090529009, issued by the Director-General of the Nature Conservation Bureau of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), dated May 29, 2009, regarding the enforcement of the Act on Ensuring of Safety of Pet Animals Feed) <https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/tikusui/petfood/attach/pdf/index-38.pdf>



Pet Food Safety Act: Labeling Checklist

(4) Country of origin

☐ The item title “原産国名” (Name of country of origin) or “原産国” (Country of origin) is listed.

(Note) If the country of origin is Japan, it can only be displayed as “国産” (domestically produced).

☐ The country of origin is indicated in Japanese.

☐ The country of origin refers to the country where the final processing step that substantially changes the product was completed

(Repacking is not considered a substantial change, so the repacking location cannot be labeled as the country of origin).

(5) Business operator's name or title and address

☐ The Japanese business operator responsible for the labeling content is indicated along with the business type.

☐ The business type is listed as “製造業者・製造者” (manufacturer), “輸入業者・輸入者” (importer), “販売業者・販売者” (seller).

(It cannot be written as 製造元(manufacturer), 輸入元(importer), or 販売元(seller), etc.)

☐ The name or title of the business operator is listed in Japanese.

☐ The address of the business operator is listed in Japanese.

(In addition to the address, it is permissible to include a phone number or other contact information optionally.)

Leaflets and Q&A for business operators are available on MAFF's website, so please make use of them.

Pet Food Safety (Pet Food Safety Act – Business Operator Page)(Japanese)

<https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/tikusui/petfood/>

Q&A on labeling under the Pet Food Safety Act (Japanese)

https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/tikusui/petfood/p_qa/hyouji.html



[Contact Information for Business Operators for Inquiries Regarding the Pet Food Safety Act]

Hokkaido Regional Agricultural Administration Office	011-330-8816
Tohoku Regional Agricultural Administration Office	022-745-9384
Kanto Regional Agricultural Administration Office	048-740-5065
Hokuriku Regional Agricultural Administration Office	076-232-4106
Tokai Regional Agricultural Administration Office	052-223-4670
Kinki Regional Agricultural Administration Office	075-414-9000
Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Agricultural Administration Office	086-224-4511 (ext. 2394)
Kyushu Regional Agricultural Administration Office	096-211-9255
Okinawa General Bureau , Cabinet Office	098-866-1672