

By-products are poor-quality ingredients.

It's a myth

By-products are sometimes thought to be low-quality ingredients that shouldn't be included in pet foods.

The facts

By-products are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients.

By-products defined:

- A by-product is any ingredient that is produced or left over when some other product or ingredient is made.
- Broths and gelatin are examples of meat by-products in human foods.
- By-products in pet foods that meet Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) guidelines come from clean animal parts other than meat, such as liver, kidneys and other organs.¹
- Purina purchases all by-products from USDA-inspected plants. They must meet stringent criteria for nutrient content, production and quality assurance.

By-products	
What they can be	What they can't be
Liver	Feathers
Kidney	Hair
Lungs	Hide
Spleen	Hooves
	Intestinal Contents

By-products can be more nutritious than meat alone.

- Muscle meat is deficient in many nutrients, including calcium, other minerals and vitamins. Many of these missing nutrients are abundant in meat by-products or poultry by-products.
- By-products are also an excellent source of protein and amino acids.
- For example, poultry by-product meal contains 60% to 70% protein and can be highly digestible.²

Remember

By-products used in Purina® diets are high-quality ingredients that can boost the nutritional value of a pet food.

1. Wortinger A. Nutritional myths. *J Amer Anim Hosp Assoc.* 2005;41(4):273-276.
 2. Murray SM, et al. Raw and rendered animal by-products as ingredients in dog diets. *J Nutr.* 1998;128(12):2812S-2815S.