

PET FOOD AND SPECIALTY PET FOOD



In general, all animal food products donated to an EFO must meet the same standards as animal food products sold in a retail store to ensure the safety and protection of the animals that consume the products and the people that come into contact with the products.

Donors are entitled to a tax deduction receipt.

EFO: Emergency Food Organization
(food banks, food pantries, meal programs)

WSDA: Washington State Department
of Agriculture

Jurisdiction: Local or county health
department or district

RCW: Revised Code of Washington

WAC: Washington Administrative Code

WASHINGTON STATE PET FOOD AND SPECIALTY PET FOOD Donations Guide

Pet food or specialty pet food donated to an Emergency Food Organization (EFO) must be registered with the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Animal Feed Program to ensure safety and accuracy in labeling. WSDA registers all pet food and specialty pet food that is made or distributed in Washington State.

All donations must be in their original packaging and labeled according to state laws and regulations. Products must also include a "lot identifier" to help with recalls, if needed.

Some items cannot or should not be accepted

These include, but are not limited to, pet food that is/has:

- Opened or in ripped packaging where contents are exposed.
- In cans that are swollen, rusty, or have severe dents, especially along seams. Scan this code to see examples. →
- An "off" odor, texture, or color.
- Unlabeled or mislabeled.
- In soiled containers or packaging.
- Perishable (refrigerated or frozen) and has or may have been temperature compromised.
- Past the "use by" or "best by" date.



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture



- Not registered with WSDA, lacking safety and accuracy checks, including those that may be:
 - » Unpasteurized milk or milk products.
 - » Prepared, cooked, cooled, reheated, canned, or vacuum-packed at home.
 - » Scan this code to look up registered products. →



Donations from retailers, distributors, or manufacturers

An EFO may accept broken or resealed packages from repacking businesses if the animal food has not been exposed to any potential contaminants and, if applicable, is properly relabeled.

A note about the Good Samaritan Donation Act

RCW 69.80.031 protects food donors from criminal and civil liability. However, donors and EFOs must still act responsibly. The act requires that donated food be “apparently wholesome.” While animal products may look fine, they can still carry harmful bacteria like E. coli or Salmonella. Pet food donors and EFOs should be familiar with food safety and know how the food was handled before donation to help verify it is “apparently wholesome.”



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Food Assistance

foodassistance@agr.wa.gov

agr.wa.gov/services/food-access

Animal Feed Program

animalfeed@agr.wa.gov

agr.wa.gov/animalfeed

AGR6-2506-027 (New 2506)

Do you need this publication in an alternate format? Please call the WSDA Receptionist at 360-902-1976 or TTY 800-833-6388.