

Ideal for dogs with skin problems related to food sensitivities.

# Solo Vegetal is a new unique and delicious, completely vegan food.

# Vegetal Dry Food



Solo Vegetal is a completely vegetarian and vegan dog food. It is meat free and contains a unique blend of ingredients, including: Spinach , Apple, Tomato, Carrot, Chicory, Alfalfa, Hulled oats , Einkorn wheat, Buckwheat, Spelt, Wheat germ, Evening Primrose and Borage oil. These combine to offer your dog a complete food with all the necessary amino acids, vitamins, minerals and nutrients they need to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

### Does my dog need to eat meat?

No, Solo Vegetal contains all the essential amino acids your dog needs, and is completely free of genetically modified ingredients, additives or preservatives. As well as making up a complete diet, Solo Vegetal's ingredients also have a number of benefits to the body:

- Einkorn wheat has high numbers of polyunsaturated fatty acids giving a high degree of digestibility, making it suitable even for the most sensitive pets
- Spelt, carrot and apple encourage good intestinal transit and function
- Carrot aids tissue growth, combining with the evening primrose and borage oil for the maintenance of skin integrity, whilst also helping to maintain skin elasticity
- Alfalfa helps to strengthen and assist in the stimulation of a healthy immune system, especially stimulating cell renewal.

So this diet is a great choice for your dog, both to use during a food trial, and throughout their life.



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# Vegeta Dry Food

# What is a food sensitivity?

Little is understood about what actually causes a food sensitivity. What we do know is around 5 to 10% of dogs with skin problems are sensitive to something in their food. For these dogs some ingredient, normally meat, dairy, egg or soy causes a reaction, which could be skin related or could cause something like diarrhoea.

# Why might my dog have a sensitivity to food?

Your dog, like many others, could be sensitive to a number of things. For example pollen from certain trees, grasses, weeds, moulds or house dust or storage mites, even to fleas. Ingredients in food can be included in this list and ascertaining what it is they are sensitive to can be very challenging.

### What is an elimination food trial?

We can rule out some things which may be causing problems like parasites, bacteria or yeast infections, by performing tests on your dog's skin such as tape strips or skin scrapes; you may have already heard of these. Only once these tests and a food trial have been performed can a vet know for sure if your dog is allergic to something in the environment, by ruling out other causes and eliminating the possibility of a food sensitivity. Testing for a food sensitivity is done by doing an elimination food trial.

# Do I really need to do a food trial if only 5-10% of dogs are food sensitive?

Sometimes a vet will go straight to treating environmental allergy once other causes, but not food sensitivity, have been ruled out, but there is always a danger by not performing an elimination food trial, that we will miss the fact that they are food sensitive; in fact, it is always possible they are sensitive to both something in the environment and also to a food ingredient.

### Isn't there a blood test to check this?

There are blood tests which can show you what your dog may be allergic to in the environment, but unfortunately there is no effective blood test for checking food sensitivity. Neither does finding environmental sensitivity on bloods rule food sensitivity out. Therefore, a food trial is the only way to know for certain.

### So how does a food trial work?

Any dog having a food trial needs to be fed a 'novel' food for up to 12 weeks. 'Novel' effectively means a food made up of ingredients they are unlikely to be sensitive to or haven't been fed before. The very important thing is to ensure NOTHING other than this diet is fed to the dog for the entire 12 weeks; so none of their normal food; no treats, no snacks and not even food dropped on the floor by accident. Otherwise the trial cannot be considered reliable and would need to be started again.

# So, does that mean we cannot give our dog treats?

Yes it does, as treats may also include ingredients that your dog may be allergic to.



Only a quarter of food sensitive pets respond in the first three weeks, half take 4 to 6 weeks to show improvement and the other half even longer, so it is important to stick with the trial until the end.

# What happens at the end of the food trial?

If there is no improvement at the end you can now rule out food allergy, which helps with future management of your dog's problem.. If there has been an improvement, ordinarily, you would reintroduce foods which your dog may be sensitive to in order to establish which specific ingredient may be causing the problem, but your vet will talk you through this.

However, after the trial is completed should you wish to remain on the food given during the trial, these are usually complete foods and can be fed for life.

# Why have I been given Solo Vegetal?

The most common causes of food sensitivity found in studies are meat (beef, chicken and lamb) egg, dairy products and Soya.

Your vet has chosen Solo Vegetal because it contains none of these, whilst containing all the ingredients your dog needs for a healthy diet.

It is also really tasty, so we're confident your dog will love it.