

# ODYSSEY PETS

Open 'til 8pm  
6 days a week!

972-407-1166

17194 Preston Rd. #131  
Dallas, Tx. 75248



Hours: Monday-Saturday 10-8pm, Sunday 12-6pm

Early drop off for grooming, boarding, & daycare available by appointment.

**Ask us about our services!**

**Grooming, Boarding, Daycare, Aquarium Service & Installation**

## EVENTS:

- Feral Friends Cat Adoptions: 3rd Sunday of every month
- Luv My Pet Low Cost Vaccine Clinic

Upcoming Dates: Saturday, March 1st 4:30-5:30

Saturday, March 29th 4:30-5:30

Saturday, April 26th 4:30-5:30

Saturday, May 24th 4:30-5:30

Saturday, June 21st 4:30-5:30

Only at  
Odyssey  
Pets

[www.odysseypets.com](http://www.odysseypets.com)

"If we wouldn't feed it to our dogs, we wouldn't sell it to yours."

## NEW PRODUCTS



**Tropiclean Clean Teeth Gel Kit**

A proprietary blend of natural, holistic ingredients produce a healthy oral environment. Kills the germs that cause bad breath, plaque and gingivitis. Soothes minor gum irritations. Only \$15.99!

**Microflora Plus for Digestion** is a complete combination of probiotics, prebiotics, digestive enzymes, and herbs to support proper digestion and bowel health.



**Zignature Dog Food**

limited ingredients blend of nutrients and antioxidants provide superior nutrition while sensitive to our four pawed family members with allergies.



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## The ODYSSEY BARKER

*making some noise about pets & toys*

## IN THIS ISSUE:



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Don't stay in the  
dark. Keep in the  
know. Odyssey  
Pets is on FACE-  
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## You Thought Chicken Meant Chicken?

Here's some definitions to help us begin to understand what goes into most pet foods.

**Animal Digest:** A material which results from chemical and/or enzymatic hydrolysis of clean and undecomposed animal tissue. Animal tissues used shall be exclusive of hair, horns, teeth, hooves, and feathers, except in such trace amounts as might occur unavoidably in good factory practice and shall be suitable for animal feed. Usually used as a pet food flavoring. It is a cooked-down broth made from unspecified parts of unspecified animals. Any kind of animal can be included: goats, pigs, horses, rats, etc. Animal can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination.

**BHA/BHT:** Butylated Hydroxyanisole and Butylated Hydroxytoluene, both of which are chemical preservatives. These chemicals have been banned from human use in many countries but are still permitted in pet foods in the U.S.

**Chicken:** Combination of flesh and skin and could include bone. Does not include feathers, heads, feet, or entrails. Does not have to be USDA inspected. Could consist of almost 100% chicken/poultry meat or it could consist of less than 1% meat, 99% skin and bone or it could be somewhere in between. The definition allows for any variation in pet food while still being labeled as chicken.

**Chicken Meal:** Chicken with moisture removed. Bottom line: Chicken can be a quality ingredient if it is sourced from a USDA inspected and approved bird and if it includes meat (not just skin and bones).

**Chicken By-Products:** Chicken by-products are parts of the chicken such as the heads, feet & viscera (internal organs) of the birds. Some pet food manufacturers make the claim this is a quality ingredient because it includes nutrient dense internal organs. Internal organs such as kidney, liver, or heart from healthy birds do provide quality nutrition to a pet food. However this ingredient is a catch-all ingredient (combination of internal organs, heads, feet, etc.) without giving the consumer any guarantee to quality of those internal organs. As example, the liver filters toxins from the body. Liver from a sick bird or a bird that was fed numerous drugs prior to slaughter could result in a dangerous liver for the pet to consume.

**Chicken By-Product Meal:** Chicken by-products with moisture removed.

**Corn Gluten Meal:** Dried residue from corn after the removal of the larger part of the starch and germ. It is an inexpensive by-product of human food processing. It is a carbohydrate that offers very little nutritional value. Serves mainly to bind pet food ingredients together. See Wheat Gluten for more.

**Corn Meal:** Entire corn kernel, finely ground.

**Ethoxyquin:** A chemical preservative not approved for human use.

**Meat Byproducts:** Leftovers from butchering any mammal. They can include almost any part of the animal other than meat. Because any mammal can be used, cheaper meats like horse, pig, or goat are often included. Pet foods that use meat by-products & meat meal are the resting place for many sick, unwanted or found dead animals in the U.S. Meat meal can contain condemned parts & animals that are rejected for human consumption. It can include pus, cancerous tissue, & decomposed (spoiled) tissue.

**Wheat Gluten:** The tough, viscid nitrogenous substance remaining when wheat is washed to remove the starch. According to Mike Sagman from [dogfoodadvisor.com](http://dogfoodadvisor.com), gluten is a protein imposter. "All things considered, the higher the protein content of a dog food, the greater its perceived value. But the amount of protein only tells half the story. It's a protein's digestibility and its biological value that matter more. And that's the problem. Protein can come from just about anywhere—even from non-nutritious sources like leather, hair, feathers, chicken beaks. Or that mysterious meat substitute—gluten. Here are the two most important things to know about gluten ingredients... 1) Glutens are less nutritionally complete than meat based proteins. They're low in some of the ten essential amino acids dogs need to sustain life. 2) Glutens can raise the protein reported on a food label. So, manufacturers frequently add them to a recipe to make a product look better than it really is. Bottom line: Whenever you see gluten on a dog food ingredients list, you should always question the true meat content of the product."



*Odyssey Pets does not carry any pet foods that list gluten, corn, corn gluten meal, or by-products in their ingredients list.  
For more information, check out [dogfoodadvisor.com](http://dogfoodadvisor.com) & [thetruthaboutpetfood.com](http://thetruthaboutpetfood.com).*

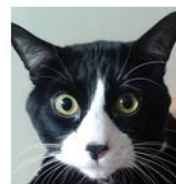
## Product Spotlight: Pulsar

Pulses are the edible seeds of legume plants. The pulses are the primary source of carbohydrates in this food. For Pulsar®, Horizon has added red lentils as the primary pulse with peas. The combination packs a powerful nutritional punch by not only reducing the glycemic index but also enhancing both digestibility through superior dietary fiber and elevating antioxidant qualities to help fend off dangerous toxins. Quality animal protein remains the number one ingredient in Pulsar® grain free. Starting at \$42.99 for 25lb.s!!!

**Pulsar**  
GRAIN FREE



**WOW!**



## Homer's Kitty Korner



## New! Sassy Cat Treats

Herbsmith Sassy Cat treats are meat-based with balancing vegetables & fruits. Freeze dried meat with no grains! \$6.99

## KITTY CAPS

Kitty Caps for Cats provides a safe and humane alternative to surgical declawing and help prevent damage to furniture caused by your pet's natural desire to scratch. kitty Caps are made from a safe and nontoxic natural vinyl resin. They are durable and easy to apply. \$14.99 for 40 piece.



## Pet Naturals of Vermont UT SUPPORT

for Cats contains ingredients to support a healthy urinary tract. This product will help maintain normal urine pH, which may reduce the likelihood of crystal formation, an extremely common discomfort among cats.

Only \$7.99



## THE GREATEST CAT TOY IN THE WORLD

The Chase Lounge has it all! Made of sustainable material with a channel for toys to bat around, it's also a great nap pad and place to play in catnip. ONLY \$9.99



Got Puppy Pads? We do.  
\$8.99 for 30 count  
\$24.99 for 100 count



**Eco-88** Stain & Odor Remover.  
Simply the best.  
Guaranteed.





## Flea & Tick Facts You May Not Know



### Your pet doesn't have to go outside to get fleas.

"Fleas are fantastic hitchhikers," says Mark Stickney, DVM, clinical associate professor at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences in College Station, TX. They can get a ride inside on people & visiting pets, sneak in through gaps in windows & doors & hide out in carpets or upholstery. So keeping your cat or dog indoors isn't enough to protect him from fleas.

### Ticks don't jump or fall from trees; they climb.

These pests hide in wooded areas, brush piles, overgrown meadows & on grasses along trails' edges, waiting for a host (you or your pet) to pass by. Once a tick detects vibrations, odors, breath or shadows from a nearby host, it crawls quickly on board, looking for a spot to attach & feed on. Because they move too fast for you to see them, don't walk through tick-infested areas without long sleeves, pants & insect repellent.

### You may not know your pet has fleas.

"Fleas spend only about 5% of their total lives on pets," says Dr. Stickney. The rest of the time, they may be hard-to-see eggs or larvae in pet bedding, carpets, upholstery & even between floor boards. If your pet is scratching & you haven't spotted adult fleas, run a flea comb through his coat. Black specks could be flea droppings, & if they turn red on a wet, white paper towel, fleas have been feeding on your pet. Check pet's bedding too.



### Some pets are allergic to fleas.

Both cats and dogs can develop flea allergy dermatitis (FAD) from flea bites. "It's the most common cause of itchy pets," says Dr. Little. Allergic pets constantly chew on their skin. Dogs typically have hair loss on their bellies, along their spine or near their tails. Constant scratching can lead to skin sores (easily hidden in long-haired pets) & bacterial infections, says Dr. Stickney.

### Flea and tick products aren't foolproof.

In peak season, ticks can lay 7,000 eggs at once, while fleas can lay 40 to 50 per day. "Even if a product is 99% effective, chances are your pet will pick up at least one tick," says Dr. Little. So regularly inspect him from head to toe. Use a flea comb, and run your hands down your pet's body to feel for ticks, especially in between paw pads, in skin folds, in and around the ears and along his spine. Ticks range from the size of a poppy seed to an apple seed and will appear plump and bloated if they've fed.

### Your pet needs year-round protection. Yes, you are at risk in the winter too.

Fleas and ticks are a year-round risk, no matter where you live. For example, the tick that transmits Lyme disease is most active October through March in the Northeast, Midwest, South Central and Southeastern US. "Ticks decrease activity in the cold, but they don't die," says Dr. Little. "I've seen ticks on grasses sticking out above the snow." As for fleas, your cozy home is the perfect place to thrive all year, while a warm spell in the middle of winter may allow flea eggs to hatch outdoors. "These pests have developed survival strategies," says Dr. Stickney. "Use parasite protection all year long so they never get a foothold."

### What to do.

Try natural remedies first! There are many "spot on" treatments on the market that have serious side effects. Vacuuming the carpets and furniture will pick up eggs, this is especially important if your pets are allowed to sleep or climb on sofas, beds, etc. Cleaning the area where the pet's favourite sleeping place is will remove significant numbers of eggs and larvae. It is possible especially when the infestation is light, for do it yourself pest control to be effective. Odyssey Pets offers natural, safe remedies like Wondercide. If natural remedies do not do the job, you may have an infestation that needs professional pest control help.



	NATURAL CHOICE Dry Dog Food	SCIENCE BRANDS		NATURAL BRANDS		WIDELY AVAILABLE	
		Eukanuba	Science Diet	Blue Buffalo	Natural Balance	Iams	Purina ONE
Real Chicken Is the #1 Ingredient	★	★	★	★	—	★	★
Whole Grain Oatmeal and Brown Rice	★	—	—	★	—	—	—
No Soy Protein, Corn or Wheat	★	—	—	★	★	—	—
No Chicken By-product Meal	★	—	—	★	★	—	—
No Artificial Flavors, Colors or Preservatives	★	★	★	★	★	—	—
Made in Their Own Facilities in the USA	★	★	★	—	—	★	★
Assured & Approved Pet Food Manufacturer		—	—	—	—	—	—
First 5 Ingredients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken</li> <li>• Chicken Meal</li> <li>• Whole Brown Rice</li> <li>• Brewers Rice</li> <li>• Rice Bran</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken</li> <li>• Chicken By-product Meal</li> <li>• Corn Meal</li> <li>• Ground Whole Grain Sorghum</li> <li>• Brewers Rice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deboned Chicken</li> <li>• Chicken Meal</li> <li>• Whole Ground Brown Rice</li> <li>• Whole Ground Barley</li> <li>• Oatmeal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deboned Chicken</li> <li>• Chicken Meal</li> <li>• Whole Ground Brown Rice</li> <li>• Whole Ground Barley</li> <li>• Oatmeal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sweet Potatoes</li> <li>• Chicken Meal</li> <li>• Chicken Fat (preserved with mixed tocopherols)</li> <li>• Chicken</li> <li>• Dicalcium Phosphate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken</li> <li>• Corn Meal</li> <li>• Ground Whole Grain Sorghum</li> <li>• Chicken by-product Meal</li> <li>• Dried Beet Pulp</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken (natural source of glucosamine)</li> <li>• Brewers Rice</li> <li>• Corn Gluten Meal</li> <li>• Whole Grain Corn</li> <li>• Poultry By-product Meal (natural source of glucosamine)</li> </ul>
	NATURAL CHOICE® WHOLESOME ESSENTIALS® Adult Chicken, Whole Brown Rice & Oatmeal Formula	Eukanuba Adult Maintenance	Science Diet Adult Advanced Fitness Original	Bloo LIFE PROTECTION FORMULA Chicken & Brown Rice Recipe for Adult Dogs	Natural Balance L.I.D. LIMITED INGREDIENT DIETS Sweet Potato & Chicken Dry Dog Formula	Iams PROACTIVE HEALTH Adult Chunks	Purina ONE SMARTBLEND Chicken & Rice Formula

What some competitors claim as natural doesn't quite cut it. Nutro Natural Choice standards are much higher. Since 1926, The Nutro Company has been a leader in pet nutrition. It's their mission to deliver quality nutrition that's safe, great-tasting, and natural. They own their own U.S. dry and wet pet food facilities. And they're committed to using only the highest-quality, natural ingredients that they purchase themselves. Their world-class food scientists and pet nutritionists use advanced research to power their natural pet food. This ensures that every formula promotes a long and healthy life for your pet.





## PET FOOD CO-PACKING INDUSTRY'S BEST KEPT SECRET

Co-Packing is short for 'Contract Packaging/Packager'. This is where a 'Pet Food Company' (I think it's more appropriate to call these companies 'Marketing Companies'), contracts out the manufacture, and typically the ingredient sourcing of their pet food to a third party....called a co-packer. Co-packers run large mass production facilities that produce many different brands of cat and dog food each day. They produce it and put another company's name on the product. The 'Pet Food Company' provides the recipe and the bags, while the ingredient sourcing and manufacture of the product is left up to the co-packer. Do you have some pause when you learn this...?

### Why should I have pause?

Most Pet Food is co-packed. There are inherent possible problems that arise from this model of manufacturing. The obvious issue is the integrity proposition. The company that has their name on the bag does not have control over the ingredient sourcing or the production of their product. If you asked the Pet Food Company where a specific ingredient was sourced, they will have to check with the co-packer. The co-packer will have you provide the lot number and expiry date for tracking purposes because the ingredient source will change depending on when it was purchased. Their sourcing will fluctuate with market supply and availability. In fact, most co-packers don't even do the sourcing of the ingredients they use...they hire an agent to do this for them. It is true that a company can provide their own ingredients to a co-packer, or require the co-packer to buy particular ingredients for their recipe, however one of the big draws of using a co-packer is that a co-packer can buy in bulk because they produce so much pet food – more than any one pet food company can on its own. Buying in bulk makes the process cheaper, and the profits richer. It stands to reason that with many of the ingredients crossing multiple lines of pet food, those ingredients are going to be the same across the different brands being manufactured. This scenario of ingredient 'sharing' is also one of the reasons why when you see a recall, it tends to be followed by several other brands being recalled in a short time frame.

### What Should I do?

There are a handful of manufacturers who choose not to co-pack and take great pride in their ingredient sourcing and finished product. Horizon Pet Nutrition is one of them. They don't co-pack – they make their own food at their own plant in Rosheim Saskatchewan – in the heart of Canada's Agriculture Belt! Sourcing is a point of pride for Horizon. Quality and Safety First - Ingredients are all whole and unprocessed and bought from the same suppliers that the grocery stores buy from (\*except chicken, turkey and salmon meals). Approximately 90% of all Horizon ingredients are sourced from within 60 miles of their plant! You won't find any foreign sourced ingredients in Horizon products. Another point of pride for the Horizon team is the high animal inclusion rates in all of the lines—66-81%. Horizon products use only named animal meats/meals and no by-products. Don't forget that animal products (meat and eggs) are among the highest cost item when putting together a recipe....so many manufactures skip on how much animal they use because less animal means lower cost to produce, and higher profits. Horizon products however, are among the best priced in the market today. You get all of the above average attributes outlined for around the same price that you pay for a grocery store brand. Horizon products are a real time example of why you shouldn't give up sourcing the best for your Pet. There are great options out there...you just have to ask the right questions.

Written by: Chris Walsh, Account Manager Horizon Pet Foods



## FISHY NEWS

Tropic Marin Bio-Calcium has all 70 trace elements without affecting pH. Healthy reef tanks need calcium!



### Algae: Friend or Foe?



Algae. That dreaded green or brown stuff you just can't seem to get rid of. Algae, in some forms is actually the sign of a healthy aquarium. It provides oxygen and helps purify the water naturally. On the other hand, it can be unsightly and if certain strains run rampant, can shadow your coral or live plants to death. So, what do you do? We at Odyssey Pets recommend natural remedies before trying any harsh chemicals. Have you replaced your light bulb(s) in the past year? The spectrum changes on lights as time goes by and can attribute to accelerated algae growth. Also, if your lights are on for more than 8-10 hours per day, you're just creating an algae farm! Put your lights on a timer for regularity. Overfeeding can also cause excess algae by creating nitrates. If food is getting sucked up by the filter when you feed, you're probably feeding too much. Fishes stomachs are only as big as their eyeballs. Products like Purigen can help clear up any muck that may be in your aquarium with minimal impact on trace elements.

### PURIGEN: AMAZINGNESS IN A BAG



Purigen® is the highest capacity organic filtration resin on the market. No other products can compare to its ability to clear haziness & polish water to unparalleled clarity. A unique macro-porous synthetic polymer that removes soluble & insoluble impurities from water at a rate & capacity that exceeds all others by over 500%. Controls ammonia, nitrites and nitrates by removing nitrogenous organic waste that would otherwise release these harmful compounds. Purigen's™ impact on trace elements is minimal. Purigen® is designed for both marine and freshwater use.

### Fish Spotlight: Panda Garra

The Panda Garra is an ornate sucker-mouth loach. A peaceful and unique addition to any community freshwater aquarium. \$6.99



## BEST SELLERS!!!

### LUCKY BUCK ANTLERS



**Lucky Buck Antlers** are naturally shed deer antlers from the U.S.A. The absolute longest lasting dog chew ever! Now available in split elk. And, if your dog doesn't like it, remember it is guaranteed.



### Bully Sticks

Always a favorite. We've got the best price in town on premium, locally sourced bully sticks. If you have to ask what it is, you may not want to know :)

**Puppia Softvest Harness**  
Plastic quick-snap buckle and Velcro closure. Great for the little guys. Easy to put on. \$24.99

