

Beat the Heat: The Best Summertime Snacks for Your Dog

Keeping your dog cool and hydrated during the hot summer months is essential, and sharing fresh, dog-safe produce is a great way to reward your furry friend. From juicy melons to refreshing, crunchy vegetables, several summertime favorites provide vital nutrients, antioxidants, and extra water for your pet.

Watermelon is the ultimate summer treat for dogs. Because it is over 90% water, it is perfect for keeping your pup safely hydrated on hot days. It is also packed with vitamins and antioxidants. To serve it safely, you must completely remove the rind and seeds, as they pose a major choking and intestinal blockage hazard. You can slice the fleshy, pink part into bite-sized cubes or freeze them for an extra refreshing crunch.

Berries and veggies are also wonderful warm-weather snacks. While blueberries and strawberries are bite-sized powerhouses full of fiber, vitamin C, and cell-protecting antioxidants, vegetables like cucumbers offer virtually no calories and are fantastic for overweight dogs. Crunchy carrots can even help scrape plaque from your dog's teeth!

Consider also:

Green Beans are crisp, low-calorie treats that can be fed raw, frozen, or steamed (plain please! No seasoning, not even salt).

Zucchini is easy to digest and safe whether served raw or cooked without oils or seasonings.

Bell Peppers in slices of red, yellow, or green with seeds and stems removed provide a crunchy boost of vitamin C.

Remember to always introduce new foods gradually and in small, controlled portions to avoid stomach upset. Cut fruits, berries, and veggies into appropriate bite-sized pieces. Ensure treats make up no more than 10% of your dog's daily caloric intake. Lastly, avoid grapes, raisins, and onions, which are highly toxic to dogs.