ActivPower CANIS

CANINE KNOWLEDGE BASE • INGREDIENT SCIENCE

Black Pepper for Canine Digestive Wellness & Vitality

A traditional culinary spice whose active compound, piperine, is studied for digestive support and nutrient utilization in dogs.

ActivPower ATLAS® | ACTORUB-K9™ | Piper nigrum · Piperine

What Is Black Pepper?

Black pepper (*Piper nigrum*) is one of the world's most widely used culinary spices. Its primary naturally occurring active compound, **piperine**, gives black pepper its characteristic flavor and has been studied for its role in digestion, nutrient absorption, antioxidant activity, and general wellness. Black pepper contains piperine, essential oils, alkaloids, and polyphenols, and is best viewed as a supportive dietary ingredient — not a treatment for any condition. It is included in **ActivPower ATLAS®** and **ACTORUB-K9™** for dogs.

Digestive Wellness Support

Research suggests that piperine may support normal digestive function by influencing digestive-enzyme activity and nutrient utilization. Experimental studies report that piperine may stimulate pancreatic digestive enzymes and support digestive efficiency — helping explain why black pepper has historically been valued as a digestive spice. Much of this work has been conducted in laboratory and animal models, and supports black pepper's traditional role within a balanced diet.

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Evidence Relevant to Dogs

Canine-relevant research on piperine centers on its role as a nutrient bio-enhancer and on the wider science of diet and the canine digestive environment.

Bioenhancement in beagle dogs (2022). A controlled beagle-dog study showed that piperine (with curcumin) enhanced the oral bioavailability and pharmacokinetics of co-administered botanical compounds, illustrating piperine's nutrient-absorption–supporting role in dogs.

Wernimont et al. (2020). A comprehensive review of how nutrition shapes the gastrointestinal microbiome of dogs and cats provides the framework within which dietary spices such as black pepper are studied for digestive wellness.

Pilla & Suchodolski (2021). A veterinary review of the canine gut microbiome and the influence of diet supports continued interest in dietary plant compounds and a balanced digestive environment in dogs.

Piperine's canine evidence is centered on nutrient utilization and digestive support; black-pepper–specific canine clinical trials remain limited, and research is ongoing.

Nutrient Utilization & Antioxidant Support

One of the most studied properties of piperine is its ability to enhance the bioavailability of certain dietary compounds. Black pepper also contains naturally occurring antioxidant polyphenols that may help support normal cellular function against the oxidative stress produced during everyday metabolism. Across the diet it may support:

- Normal digestive function and enzyme activity
- Utilization of certain dietary nutrients
- Antioxidant and healthy-cellular support
- General vitality and wellness

Emerging Gut-Microbiome Research

Early research suggests piperine may interact with the gut environment and microbial communities. This field is still evolving, and additional studies are needed before definitive conclusions can be drawn.

Safety & Responsible Use

Black pepper has a long history of safe culinary use. Because concentrated piperine may influence the absorption or metabolism of certain medications and nutrients, pet owners should consult their veterinarian before supplementation, particularly for dogs with existing health conditions or receiving medications.

The ActivPower Perspective

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ActivPower includes black pepper powder in ATLAS® and ACTORUB-K9™ as part of a comprehensive nutritional strategy to support digestive wellness, nutrient utilization, and everyday vitality in dogs — one component of a balanced program.

FEATURED IN

ActivPower ATLAS® & ACTORUB-K9™ for Dogs

Selected References — Canine & Veterinary Literature

1. Songvut P, Suriyo T, Panomvana D, et al. Bioenhancing effects of piperine and curcumin on triterpenoid pharmacokinetics and neurodegenerative metabolomes from Centella asiatica extract in beagle dogs. *Sci Rep.* 2022;12:20469.
2. Wernimont SM, Radosevich J, Jackson MI, et al. The effects of nutrition on the gastrointestinal microbiome of cats and dogs: impact on health and disease. *Front Microbiol.* 2020;11:1266.
3. Pilla R, Suchodolski JS. The gut microbiome of dogs and cats, and the influence of diet. *Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract.* 2021;51(3):605–621.
4. Srinivasan K. Black pepper and its pungent principle-piperine: a review of diverse physiological effects. *Crit Rev Food Sci Nutr.* 2007;47(8):735–748. (mechanistic reference)

DISCLAIMER

This article is provided solely for educational and informational purposes and summarizes selected scientific literature concerning black pepper (Piper nigrum) as a nutritional ingredient in dogs. Nothing herein is intended to diagnose, treat, cure, mitigate, or prevent any disease, injury, arthritis, inflammatory disorder, or medical condition in animals.

Statements regarding dietary supplements have not been evaluated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Individual responses may vary. Pet owners should consult a qualified veterinarian before introducing any new supplement or nutritional ingredient into an animal wellness program. No claim beyond the educational discussion of current scientific literature is stated or implied.

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