ActivPower CANIS

CANINE KNOWLEDGE BASE • INGREDIENT SCIENCE

Food-Grade Diatomaceous Earth for Canine Digestive & Nutritional Wellness

A naturally occurring source of amorphous silica studied for digestive and nutritional support in dogs — with an honest look at the limits of current evidence.

ActivPower ATLAS® for Dogs | Food-Grade | Amorphous Silica · Silicon

What Is Food-Grade Diatomaceous Earth?

Diatomaceous earth (DE) is a naturally occurring mineral-rich powder made from the fossilized remains of microscopic aquatic organisms called diatoms. Food-grade DE consists primarily of **amorphous silica** (silicon dioxide), typically 80–90% of its composition. It differs significantly from industrial or filter-grade forms, which contain higher levels of crystalline silica and are not intended for consumption. Food-grade DE is included in **ActivPower ATLAS® for dogs** as one component of a broader nutritional formulation.

> **Important: Evidence Is Still Emerging**
>
> Veterinary clinical research on food-grade diatomaceous earth is limited, and many commonly promoted claims — including digestive “cleansing,” detoxification, or use as a natural dewormer — have not been confirmed in well-controlled canine studies. DE is included for its silica content and long history of use, not as a treatment for any condition.

How DE Is Studied in Animals

Food-grade DE is largely inert and is not significantly digested. Its porous structure has led researchers to investigate adsorptive interactions within the gastrointestinal tract, and its silica content is studied as a possible source of dietary silicon. Scientific discussion generally centers on three areas:

- **Physical characteristics in the gut** — laboratory adsorptive properties that do not automatically translate into measurable animal health benefits.
- **Source of dietary silicon** — a trace mineral involved in normal connective-tissue and structural processes.
- **Overall nutritional wellness** — preliminary animal and laboratory signals on intestinal and metabolic measures.

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What the Animal & Veterinary Literature Shows

There are no robust diatomaceous-earth clinical trials specific to dogs. The most relevant evidence comes from livestock and poultry research and from silicon nutrition science.

Livestock DE review. A review of fossil shell flour (diatomaceous earth) in livestock production summarizes its uses, silica content, and the limits of current evidence in animals.

Anthelmintic evaluations. Controlled studies of DE as an anthelmintic in cattle and in organic laying hens have reported mixed and often no meaningful reduction in internal-parasite burden — a caution against 'natural dewormer' claims.

Silicon in animal nutrition. Foundational work established silicon as a trace element in animal nutrition involved in connective-tissue and skeletal processes, which frames DE's nutritional interest as a silica source.

DE-specific canine clinical evidence remains limited; its inclusion is framed by silica content and a long history of use, and responsible discussion acknowledges the need for additional veterinary research.

Safety Considerations

Only **food-grade** diatomaceous earth should be considered for nutritional use. Industrial-grade and pool-filter grades contain substantially higher levels of crystalline silica and are not intended for consumption. Food-grade products should always be sourced from reputable manufacturers with appropriate quality control. Pet owners — especially those managing a dog's health conditions or medications — should consult their veterinarian before beginning supplementation.

The ActivPower Perspective

ActivPower includes food-grade diatomaceous earth in ATLAS® for dogs because of its long history of use, its silica content, and emerging scientific interest as a supportive nutritional ingredient — one component of a balanced wellness program, presented with appropriate caution given the current state of the evidence.

FEATURED IN

ActivPower ATLAS® for Dogs

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Selected References — Animal & Veterinary Literature

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2. Effect of diatomaceous earth as an anthelmintic treatment on internal parasites and feedlot performance of beef steers. *Anim Sci.*
3. Bennett DC, Yee A, Rhee YJ, Cheng KM. Effect of diatomaceous earth on parasite load, egg production, and egg quality of free-range organic laying hens. *Poult Sci.* 2011;90(7):1416–1426.
4. Carlisle EM. Silicon as an essential trace element in animal nutrition. *Ciba Found Symp.* 1986;121:123–139.
5. 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.

DISCLAIMER

This article is provided solely for educational and informational purposes and summarizes selected scientific literature concerning food-grade diatomaceous earth 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.