

Remove GST from Pet Food Products

Overview

To address issues of affordability, Pets Canada urges the federal government to remove the GST from pet food, recognizing it as an essential good. This change would provide significant financial relief to Canadian pet owners, support public health, and align with other essential goods already exempt.

Background:

- The rising cost of living has significantly impacted Canadians, particularly pet owners, who struggle to afford necessary items for their pet's wellbeing. GST on pet food adds an unnecessary expense that is especially harmful for low-income families, seniors, and those on fixed incomes.
- Pets are a vital part of Canadian households. They provide companionship, improve mental and physical health, and are increasingly recognized as members of the family. However, the current GST on pet food creates challenges to promote the wellbeing of pets and pet ownership, with the potential to decrease adoption rates and increase surrenders to shelters, which already struggle to accommodate the number of pets in their care.



Why Remove the GST?

- 1. Increase Affordability for Canadians:** The removal of the GST would increase affordability and lower the cost of pet care, making pet ownership more accessible for Canadians. With inflation impacting Canadians across the country, every dollar saved helps families provide for themselves and their pets, reducing financial strain and ensuring pets can remain with caring families.
- 2. Support Public Health:** Studies consistently show that pet ownership is linked to reduced levels of stress, anxiety, and depression, as well as increased physical activity. By increasing pet food affordability, we can support Canadians' physical and mental health, reducing healthcare costs over time.
- 3. Alignment with Other Essential Goods:** SPet services were deemed essential by the government during the COVID-19 pandemic and basic grocery items have for many years been exempted from the GST to support affordability for essential goods. Pet food should similarly be classified as an essential good, reflecting its critical role in Canadian households and exempting it from the GST.



Call to Action

- Pets Canada urges MPs to create or support new legislation or amendments that would remove the GST from pet food and treat it as an essential good.
- Pets Canada encourages the Finance and Taxation Committees to consider this exemption as a measure that benefits Canadian families and public health.

Supporting Data



Nearly 52% of Canadian households own a pet.



A recent survey found that 80% of Canadian pet families report looking to reduce pet expenses and 65% of Canadians, including non-pet owners, support removing the GST from pet food.

**\$22.7
billion**
saved each year

According to the Human Animal Bond Research Institute, pet ownership saves the U.S. health care system \$22.7 billion every year, by reducing doctor visits, stress-related illnesses, and improving cardiovascular health.

Potential Impact

- Removing the GST from pet food will save pet families money which could reduce the number of pets surrendered to shelters, and improve overall public health outcomes.
- Exempting essential pet food from GST costs the federal government pennies on the dollar, less than 1% of the budget, while offering meaningful relief to more than half of Canadian households.



Pets Canada is the not-for-profit, member-based voice of the Canadian pet industry. Pets Canada acts as a credible source of information for pet related businesses, and collaborates with Canadian lawmakers so legislation is beneficial for pets, pet parents, and the pet industry.

For more information on our work,
please visit our website at www.petscanada.org

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NIQ, Pets Canada Pet Ownership Survey; Canada; 2025
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