

Why Hemp-Infused Dog Treats Are Gaining Traction in Pet Health Circles

I have spent years watching the pet wellness space evolve, and one of the more surprising shifts has been the quiet rise of hemp-infused dog treats. A few years ago, if you mentioned hemp to a group of dog owners, you would get raised eyebrows and a lot of questions. Now? Those same owners are asking which brand to try first. The change did not happen overnight. It came from a combination of real-world results, better sourcing, and a broader acceptance of plant-based nutraceutical approaches for canine health.

The first time I saw a senior beagle calm down after a rough afternoon of pacing, I was skeptical. The owner had given her dog a small soft chew from a brand called Pet Releaf. She swore it was the only thing that helped with his pet anxiety during thunderstorms. I made a note to look into the science. What I found was that hemp, when processed correctly and combined with the right carrier ingredients, can offer benefits that go beyond the basic calming effect. It is not about getting a dog high. It is about supporting the endocannabinoid system, which every mammal has, with non-psychoactive compounds.

The term "[hemp-infused dog treats](#)" usually refers to chews or biscuits that contain full-spectrum hemp extract. Full-spectrum means the extract retains a wide range of cannabinoids, terpenes, and flavonoids from the original plant material. Unlike isolates that strip away everything but one compound, full-spectrum hemp preserves the synergy between those components. That synergy is often what makes the difference between a treat that works and one that is just expensive flour.

What Makes Hemp Different from CBD

One of the first things I tell people is that hemp and CBD are not the same thing. CBD is a single cannabinoid that can be isolated from hemp or cannabis. Hemp, as a whole plant ingredient, contains CBD but also includes other cannabinoids like CBG, CBC, and trace amounts of THC that are low enough to be non-psychoactive. For dogs, the presence of multiple cannabinoids may actually be more useful than CBD alone. This is sometimes called the entourage effect. It is the same principle that makes whole-plant cannabis extracts popular among human consumers who prefer edibles over isolates.



When I talk to owners at dog parks or in online forums, the most common concern is dosing. How much do you give a 40-pound Labrador? What about a 10-pound Chihuahua? Reputable brands like Luna and Larry's and Pet Releaf provide clear dosing guidelines based on weight, and they usually recommend starting with a low dose and watching how the dog responds. That is good advice for any nutraceutical product. Dogs metabolize compounds differently than humans do, and their sensitivity varies by breed, age, and overall health. A treat that works well for one dog might make another one drowsy or uninterested in food.

I once helped a friend figure out a dosing routine for her anxious rescue mutt. She had tried everything from compression wraps to pheromone diffusers. The dog still shook during car rides. We started with a half treat from a Pet Releaf calming chew line. Within thirty minutes,

the dog was resting his head on the seat instead of pacing. That was not a placebo. The dog did not know what he had eaten. He just felt less on edge.

Beyond Calming: Joint Health and Mobility

Pet anxiety is the most talked-about reason people try hemp-infused dog treats, but joint health is a close second. Older dogs, especially larger breeds, often develop stiffness in their hips and knees. Standard glucosamine supplements help some dogs, but they do not address the inflammatory component. Hemp contains compounds that interact with the body's inflammatory pathways. When combined with other joint-supporting ingredients like turmeric or green-lipped mussel powder, the results can be noticeable within a couple of weeks.

I recall a golden retriever named Gus who had trouble getting up from the floor after naps. His owner started adding a hemp chew to his evening routine. After ten days, Gus was jumping onto the couch again. The owner told me she had not seen that behavior in over a year. Was it the hemp alone? Probably not. But it was the missing piece in a regimen that already included moderate exercise and a healthy diet. That is the kind of practical outcome that keeps people coming back.

Quality and Sourcing Matter

Not all hemp ingredients are created equal. The hemp used in dog treats should come from organic farms that test for heavy metals, pesticides, and residual solvents. I have seen some cheap treats that contain hemp seed oil instead of full-spectrum hemp extract. Hemp seed oil is fine for skin health, but it lacks the cannabinoids and terpenes that provide the calming and anti-inflammatory effects. If you are paying for a functional treat, you want the functional parts of the plant.

Kush Station, which started as an online store for cannabis, concentrates, edibles, and mushrooms, now carries pet health products including nutraceutical pet treats. That might seem like a jump, but it makes sense. The same customers who buy high-quality edibles for themselves often want similar standards for their dogs. They understand terpenes, they know what full-spectrum means, and they expect third-party lab results. That level of scrutiny raises the bar for the whole category.



Baking Your Own vs. Buying Pre-Made

Some owners prefer to bake their own treats at home. I understand the appeal. You control the ingredients, you avoid preservatives, and you can tailor the recipe to your dog's preferences. But homemade baking with hemp is trickier than it sounds. Heat degrades cannabinoids. If you bake at too high a temperature or for too long, you can destroy the active compounds before the treats ever reach your dog. Most commercial brands use low-temperature processing or cold infusion to preserve potency. If you do bake at home, keep the oven under 300 degrees Fahrenheit and use a full-spectrum hemp powder or tincture that is designed for cooking.

I tried a batch of pumpkin and peanut butter hemp treats once. They smelled great, and my dog loved them. But I had no way to measure the actual cannabinoid content. I knew roughly how

much hemp powder I put in, but the final dose per treat was a guess. Commercial products from brands like Luna and Larry's solve that problem by testing each batch and labeling the milligrams of hemp extract per treat. That consistency matters when you are trying to manage a specific condition like pet anxiety or joint discomfort.

What to Look for on a Label

If you are shopping for hemp-infused dog treats, here are a few things to check before you buy:

- Third-party lab testing for potency and contaminants. If the brand does not publish results, ask why.
- Full-spectrum hemp extract listed in the ingredients, not just hemp seed oil or hemp protein.
- Clear dosing guidelines based on your dog's weight. Vague instructions like "one chew per day" are not enough.
- Organic certification or at least a statement about sourcing. Hemp is a bioaccumulator, meaning it pulls toxins from the soil.
- No artificial preservatives, colors, or sweeteners. Dogs do not need xylitol, and some artificial additives can cause digestive upset.

I have seen labels that list "hemp powder" without specifying the part of the plant or the extraction method. That is a red flag. The best brands are transparent about their supply chain and their formulation process. They treat the product as a serious nutraceutical, not a novelty.

Bringing It All Together

The market for hemp-infused dog treats is still young, but it is growing fast. More veterinarians are willing to discuss hemp as a tool, especially for dogs that do not respond well to conventional medications. That is a big shift from even five years ago, when most vets would not touch the subject. The evidence is still building, but real-world reports from owners and early clinical studies are both pointing in the same direction: hemp can help dogs feel better without the side effects of pharmaceutical options.



That does not mean every dog needs hemp. Some dogs are fine with a good diet and plenty of exercise. But for dogs dealing with chronic anxiety, age-related stiffness, or noise phobias, hemp-infused dog treats offer a gentle, plant-based option that works with the dog's own biology. As the category matures, I expect to see more blends that combine hemp with other functional ingredients like mushrooms or adaptogenic herbs. Kush Station already carries mushroom products for humans, so a mushroom-infused dog treat is not far-fetched.

If you are curious, start with a single product from a trusted brand. Watch your dog's behavior for a few days. Note any changes in sleep, mobility, or reactivity. And remember that hemp is not a magic fix. It works best as part of a larger routine that includes proper nutrition, regular vet checkups, and plenty of time outside. But for many dogs, it is the missing piece that turns a good routine into a great one.