

THE BULLETIN BIRD

HARRISON'S BIRD FOODS NEWSLETTER

You May Not Know...



Food dyes, synthesized originally from coal tar and now petroleum, have long been controversial because of safety concerns.

Many dyes have been banned because of their adverse effects on laboratory animals or inadequate testing.

Several currently US-approved dyes are considered carcinogenic (Red 3, Red 40, Yellow 5, Yellow 6, Blue 1), and some may cause hypersensitivity reactions. Harrison's Bird Foods do not contain any food dyes.



*Kobylewski S, et al: Toxicity of food dyes. Int J Occup Environ Health, Jul-Sep 2012.

Behind the Scenes...



Whole peanuts are rarely used in pet foods due to the high cost. However, they provide many nutrients and are valuable ingredients

in Harrison's Power Treats and other products.

Peanuts are high in plant sterols, calcium, magnesium, potassium, niacin, the essential amino acid arginine, and monounsaturated fatty acids. These nutrients help stabilize blood glucose, lower LDL and decrease atherosclerosis.

An Interesting Tidbit...

With ingredients being equal, the primary difference between pellets and Harrison's nuggets is in the manufacturing process.

Pellets require steam, pressure and a binding agent (such as clay-like products) to bind the grains into a firm pellet. This is an economical process, but pellets are less

digestible than formulated diets produced by extrusion and, because they have low moisture and fat content, they tend to crumble and may not be appealing to animals.

Harrison's Bird Foods are actually nuggets, which are produced by an extrusion process, a mechanical means of baking. In addition to the heat destruction of microorganisms and anti-nutritional factors, the carbohydrates are caramelized, resulting in a caramel flavor and light brown color. Extruded products are easily digestible and have enhanced natural flavors, which are appealing to animals. As a result, 90% of modern upscale pet foods are extruded. The only disadvantage is that extrusion is an expensive process that requires skill in operating the machinery for quality assurance.



A Brief Focus

Although Harrison's recommends supplementing its formulated nuggets with approximately 20% fresh fruits and vegetables, the volume of any additive needs careful attention.

Giving one whole grape to a cockatiel would be comparable to giving 460 grapes to a 150 pound person! Also, some specific nuts (Brazil) are not appropriate to offer as a supplement to birds, as even a single Brazil nut may result in selenosis (toxic overabundance of selenium).



(** see Selenosis video below)