

## Pig Ears

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*

**Q.** Are pig ears safe for my dog?

**A.** Most of the pig ears manufactured in the United States are safety inspected and are safe. There have been cases, however, of *Salmonella* being transmitted through pig ears. After handling pig ears, or any meat-based treat for your dog, you should wash your hands with plenty of soap and warm water. Keep pig ears off of food preparation or serving areas.

Pig ears have a high fat content and would certainly not be the treat of choice for dogs with weight problems, or those prone to [pancreatitis](#). If given in large quantities (as compared to the size of the dog or puppy), pig ears can also cause loose stools. The bottom line is moderation.

It is always a good idea to supervise your dog when giving him any treat, and prevent him from swallowing large pieces of chew items.