



Is It 'Grub's Up' for Insect-Based Pet Food?

What is insect-based pet food?

- Insect-based pet food contains protein that comes from insects.
- Pet foods that contain 40% insect protein are currently available for pet owners to buy.

It's said that the UK is a nation of pet lovers. Owners love to treat their pets! But would their pet pooches be satisfied with a bowl of insects?

In the UK, 99% of pet owners consider their pets to be family members, according to the Royal [Veterinary](#) College. So it isn't any wonder that they like to treat their faithful hound with a nice treat.

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) says that pet owners should now consider giving their cat or dog insect-based food instead of meat. It even said that it could be healthier for animals. The BVA represents vets in the UK. It also shares new research about animals.

So why are people talking about eating insects? It's partly down to the positive effect insect [proteins](#) could have on the environment.

Environmentalists say that animals, such as cows, need a large area of land to graze. WWF, a wildlife charity, has said that areas of the Amazon rainforest have been cleared for cattle farming.

One Dutch insect farm claims that insect farming only uses 2% of the land and 4% of the water per kg of protein compared to beef farming.

Cows also produce a greenhouse gas called methane. NASA says that these gases trap heat which has led to the Earth's temperature to increase. This is called climate change.

It's not just dogs and cats that should be



Photo: The BVA wants dogs to eat insect-based food.

eating insects; some people think it's time for humans to do so as well! You may be surprised to hear that eating bugs is not as uncommon as you may think.

The United Nations, a peacekeeping organisation, said in a 2013 report that two billion people eat [edible](#) insects as part of their [traditional](#) diet. While people in the UK are less likely to eat bugs, attitudes appear to be changing. Last year, the supermarket Sainsbury's started selling crickets you can eat.

Glossary

veterinary	The treatment of diseases and injuries in pets and farm animals.
proteins	Essential nutrients that are used for developing muscles and hairs.
edible	Something that can be eaten.
traditional	Something that is normally done.

Questions

1. Why do some people think that insect-based pet food could be good for the environment? Find and copy two reasons.

1. _____

2. _____

2. 'So it isn't any wonder that they like to treat their faithful hound with a nice treat.' In this sentence, what does the word 'faithful' mean? Tick one.

- loyal
- kind
- friendly
- thoughtful

3. Why do you think it's said that the UK is a nation of pet lovers? Explain your answer.

4. Do you think insect-based pet food will become more popular? Explain your answer.

5. In the paragraph beginning 'In the UK', find and copy a phrase which means 'it's not surprising'.

6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Why do some people think that insect-based pet food could be good for the environment?
Find and copy two reasons.
Accept any two from the following: insects use less land than cattle farming; insects use less water; environmentalists say that the rainforest is being cleared for cattle farming.
2. 'So it isn't any wonder that they like to treat their faithful hound with a nice treat.'
In this sentence, what does the word 'faithful' mean? Tick one.
 loyal
 kind
 friendly
 thoughtful
3. Why do you think it's said that the UK is a nation of pet lovers? Explain your answer.
Accept any reasonable answer that refers to the story, e.g. I think the UK is a nation of pet lovers because 99% of pet lovers consider their pets to be family members.
4. Do you think insect-based pet food will become more popular? Explain your answer.
Accept any reasonable answer that refers to the story, e.g. I think it will become more popular because the BVA, which represents vets, thinks it's a good idea.
5. In the paragraph beginning 'In the UK', find and copy a phrase which means 'it's not surprising'.
it isn't any wonder
6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.
Accept any reasonable summary that is 20 words or fewer, e.g. The British Veterinary Association thinks pet owners should consider giving their animals insect-based food.