

# Why Plasma Is Becoming a Go-To Ingredient for Pet Health

Discover why plasma is the all-natural, powerhouse ingredient transforming pet health — from immunity and digestion to joint comfort and energy.

Reviewed by [Dr. Tracy Duffner](#)

## STORY AT-A-GLANCE

- Plasma is a natural, protein-rich ingredient that supports pet wellness from the inside out — improving digestion, immunity, energy, skin health, and joint comfort in both dogs and cats
- Sourced responsibly from pigs or cattle, plasma is processed into a safe, shelf-stable powder and added to pet foods, treats, and supplements for whole-body support
- Plasma strengthens the immune system by delivering antibodies and bioactive compounds that support gut health, reduce inflammation, and help your pet fight off illness more effectively
- Compared to traditional supplements, plasma-powered products offer faster, more consistent results for issues like digestive upset, joint stiffness, and skin irritation — without artificial additives or synthetic fillers
- Adding plasma to your pet's diet is easy with enriched foods, targeted supplements, or treats — offering a simple, sustainable way to boost your pet's vitality and well-being

As a pet parent, you always want the best for your furry family members. You look for healthy ingredients, safe formulas, and products that help your pets live long, vibrant lives. You may have heard about new “superfoods” or ingredients popping up in pet health conversations, and one of the rising stars is plasma.

It might sound like something from a science lab, but plasma is actually a natural, powerful ingredient with incredible benefits for your pet's health. From helping with digestion and immunity to supporting joints and energy, plasma is quickly becoming a trusted addition to pet food, treats, and supplements.

Let's explore what plasma is, how it works, and why more pet parents and veterinarians are turning to it as a go-to ingredient for better pet wellness.

## What Exactly Is Plasma?

Plasma is the liquid part of blood. When blood is collected and spun down in a lab or processing facility, it separates into different parts — red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and plasma. Plasma makes up over half of blood's volume and serves as the main carrier for nutrients, hormones, and proteins. Think of it as the “superhighway” in your pet's body, delivering essential materials like:

- **Amino acids** (the building blocks of protein)

- **Electrolytes** like sodium and potassium
- **Minerals** like iron and magnesium
- **Antibodies and immunoglobulins** (proteins that support the immune system)
- **Albumin** (a protein important for carrying calcium and for maintaining blood volume and blood pressure)
- **Enzymes and peptides** that help with digestion and other body functions
- **Growth factors** that support development and healing
- **Clotting factors** (proteins that are necessary for clots to form and for bleeding to stop)

In nature, wild dogs and cats eat every part of their prey — including blood — when they hunt. That means plasma has always been part of a natural carnivore’s diet. Now, thanks to new technology and research, plasma is available in forms that are safe and easy to add to modern pet foods and supplements.<sup>1,2</sup>

## How Is Plasma Made for Pets?

When plasma is used in pet food or supplements, it goes through a special process to make it safe, shelf-stable, and nutritious. Here is how it works:<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>

1. **Collection** — Plasma is typically sourced from pigs or cattle after standard meat processing. This is an important point — no animals are harmed just to get plasma. It is a byproduct that is responsibly reclaimed.
2. **Separation** — The plasma is separated from whole blood by removing the red blood cells.
3. **Drying** — The plasma is then spray-dried into a fine powder called Spray-Dried Animal Plasma (SDAP). This process keeps the nutrients and active components intact.
4. **Formulation** — That powder can now be added to pet food, treats, or supplements.

Because it is shelf-stable, plasma can be stored for up to 10 years. That means it is ready when your pet needs it, without needing refrigeration.<sup>7</sup>

## Why Are Pet Brands Using Plasma?

Originally, plasma was used in pet food to improve texture and stability. It helped make canned or kibble foods smoother and more appealing to picky eaters, especially cats. But pet nutrition experts soon discovered something bigger: plasma was doing more than making food look good. It was actually improving health from the inside out.

Now, many natural pet food brands and supplement companies are using plasma as a key ingredient because of its many whole-body health benefits. It is clean, functional, natural — and pets love the taste.<sup>8,9,10</sup>

## Top Benefits of Plasma for Pets

Let’s dive into the many ways plasma can help your dog or cat thrive. Whether you are raising a playful puppy, caring for a senior pet, or just looking for ways to keep your furry friend feeling their best, plasma offers a natural solution backed by science and inspired by nature.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

1. **Immune support** — Your pet’s immune system is its built-in defense team, protecting against illness, infections, and inflammation. Plasma helps strengthen this system by delivering antibodies, immunoglobulins, and other proteins that help the body recognize and fight off harmful invaders.

In fact, about 70% to 80% of a pet’s immune system is in the gut. Plasma supports this gut-immune connection by improving the health of the digestive tract — where immune responses often begin.

2. **Gut health and digestion** — Is your pet prone to an upset stomach, loose stool, or food sensitivities? Plasma may help. The bioactive compounds in plasma, like enzymes and peptides, help break down food and keep the digestive tract in balance. This can lead to:

- Better digestion
- Reduced inflammation in the gut
- A healthier microbiome (the “good bacteria” in the gut)
- Improved nutrient absorption

Some studies have even shown that plasma can reduce diarrhea and be used as a natural alternative to antibiotics in young animals like piglets.<sup>14</sup>

3. **Joint and muscle health** — Plasma does not just work in the gut — it supports muscles and joints too. The amino acids and growth factors found in plasma help build and repair tissues, making it great for pets with active lifestyles, aging joints, or injuries.

Compared to some traditional joint supplements like glucosamine — which have mixed research results — plasma has a more consistent track record at addressing the inflammation. That is why certain brands are using it in joint health supplements backed by decades of research on the large animal side and a decade of research on the small animal side.

4. **Skin and coat health** — A shiny coat and healthy skin are not just for looks—they are signs of good internal health. Plasma contains proteins and minerals that support skin repair and hydration. It also helps reduce inflammation, which can contribute to skin issues like itchiness, hot spots, and dryness.

Many pet parents report that pets fed plasma-powered foods or supplements have softer coats and fewer skin problems over time.

5. **Energy and vitality** — Plasma is roughly 70% to 80% protein, making it an excellent energy source for both dogs and cats. Protein fuels your pet’s muscles, supports organ function, and keeps them alert and active. It is especially helpful for:

- Growing puppies and kittens
- Senior pets who need extra nutritional support
- Pets recovering from illness or surgery
- Working and athletic dogs

With plasma, you are not just filling your pet’s belly — you are fueling their body and spirit.

## Is Plasma Safe?

Yes, plasma is a natural, highly digestible, and carefully processed ingredient. It is used around the world in both human and animal medicine.

When humans donate blood, the plasma is separated and often used in hospitals to help people recover from burns, injuries, or immune system conditions. Plasma is used in both humans and animals in emergency settings to help replace lost fluids and counteract shock, improve blood pressure in trauma situations, and provide clotting factors.

Reputable pet food brands that use plasma make sure it is collected responsibly and processed in USDA-approved facilities. The final product is shelf-stable, safe, and easy to add to your pet's routine.

## Sustainability Bonus — Plasma Is Good for the Planet as Well

In today's world, many pet parents also care about sustainability — and plasma delivers here too. Since it is a byproduct of meat processing, using plasma helps reduce waste and support a more responsible food system. Instead of discarding valuable nutrients, plasma gives them a second life in the form of health-boosting pet products. That is a win-win: better health for your pet and a lighter footprint on the planet.<sup>15</sup>

## How to Add Plasma to Your Pet's Diet

Interested in trying plasma for your pet? Adding plasma to your pet's routine does not have to be complicated or expensive. Here are a few easy ways to help you get started:

1. **Plasma-enriched pet food** — Some natural pet food brands include plasma in their formulas to enhance nutrition without adding synthetic vitamins or minerals. These foods may say "plasma" or "spray-dried animal plasma" on the ingredient list.<sup>16</sup>
2. **Plasma supplements** — Certain brands make targeted supplements powered by plasma to support specific health goals like joint comfort, gut health, skin relief, and overall vitality. These come in chewable, tasty forms that are easy to give your pet daily.

Because they are fast-acting and palatable, many pets love them — and owners often notice improvements within weeks.<sup>17</sup>

3. **Treats with plasma** — Treats are another simple way to introduce plasma into your pet's diet. Some functional treats are made with added plasma for a health boost along with a delicious flavor.

## What to Look for When Choosing Plasma Products

As always, quality matters. When choosing foods or supplements with plasma, here are a few things to check:

- **Source transparency** — Look for brands that clearly state where their plasma comes from (e.g., pigs or cattle) and how it is processed.
- **No unnecessary additives** — Aim for formulas without synthetic fillers, colors, or preservatives.
- **Specific health focus** — Some plasma supplements are tailored to joint health, others to gut or immune health. Choose one based on your pet's needs.

- **Veterinary guidance** — While plasma is generally safe, talk to your veterinarian if your pet has a health condition or is on medication.

## Final Thoughts — Is Plasma Right for Your Pet?

If you are looking for a natural, powerful way to support your pet's health from the inside out, plasma is worth considering. It is not just a trendy ingredient — it is a time-tested, research-backed option that helps with digestion, immunity, energy, joints, skin, and more.

Whether you are caring for a bouncy puppy, a mellow senior, or a cat with a sensitive tummy, plasma can help them feel their best. And when you choose products with plasma, you are doing more than just feeding your pet — you are nourishing their whole body and supporting a healthier future.

## Sources and References

<sup>1,7,8,11,14,16</sup> [Nature's Logic, Ingredient Spotlight – Plasma: A Natural Nutrient Source](#)

<sup>2,10,13,15</sup> [Animal Wellness Magazine, January 9, 2026](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Animals \(Basel\), 2023 May 26;13\(11\):1773](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Journal of Animal Physiology and Animal Nutrition, August 29, 2020](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Journal of Animal Science, Volume 82, Issue 6, June 2004, Pages 1685–1692](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Applied Sciences, August 2024;14\(17\):7671](#)

<sup>9,12,17</sup> [IVC Journal, November 25, 2025](#)

---