

IQI green banana powder





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#### Green banana powder: a sustainable, grainfree ingredient to promote gut health

Anticipating the ever-growing demand in grain-free pet food, IQI is continuously exploring new, healthy and sustainable sources of grain-free starch for pets. Sprouting from this ongoing quest, we recently added green banana from the Philippines to our ingredient portfolio. Resulting from harvests for human consumption, these 100% fresh yet unripe fruits offer a novel, sustainable, and healthy ingredient for pet food. IQI's green banana powder is made from 100% fresh yet unripe Philippian bananas, grown by our supplier Dole Specialty Ingredients (DSI) – one of the world's largest fruit producers with more than 32,000 ha of banana, pineapple, and papaya farms and more than 350 packing plants on the Philippines. After harvesting the crops, the bananas which are rejected – mostly for cosmetic reasons – are washed, peeled (on demand), sliced, dried, pulverized and sieved. The remaining light brown-green banana powder is an ideal choice for pet food formulations.

### Various beneficial characteristics

As a naturally processed pet food ingredient, IQI's green banana powder offers a wide array of characteristics that make it an ideal choice for pet food formulations. The product is grain- and gluten-free, low in fat and sugar, yet rich in minerals such as potassium and magnesium, and vegan. The powder also offers different functional benefits. Next to its neutral tasting, it can go in various pet food formulations as a texturizer and thickener thanks to its pectin content. Research indicates that it could also potentially serve as a natural color additive thanks to the powder's light brown color.

#### Resistant starch for optimized nutrition

Another beneficial feature – setting green bananas apart from their yellow family members – is their naturally high content of so-called resistant starch (>35%). Known as a powerful prebiotic fiber, resistance starch works through the digestive system to promote gut health. Unlike other types of carbohydrates, it is not (rapidly) digested in the small intestine but instead passed into the large bowel. There, it is fermented by bacteria into short chain fatty acids which absorb excess fluid. The result is that the dog's stools get firmer, and the occurrence of diarrhea is reduced. Research indicates that resistant starch also reduces and controls the rate and extent of intestinal starch digestion to glucose in pets. As a most notable result, glucose does not flood their circulation as rapidly – the so-called glycemic effect. It may also contribute to satiety, colon health, and immune health.

#### Two versions

IQI's green banana powder comes in two versions, one with and one without peel.

	Green banana powder	
	With peel	Without peel
Moisture	< 8 %	< 8 %
Protein	4.3 %	4.7 %
Fat	1.1 %	0.2 %
Ash	3.7 %	3.2 %
Fiber	7.6 %	6.9 %
Starch	66.3 %	70.5 %
Resistant starch	37.1 %	38.1 %

## Sustainable choice

As an upcycled side stream from banana harvests for human consumption, IQI's green banana powder accounts for a sustainable pet food ingredient. Worldwide, more than 15% of bananas are rejected in farms for cosmetic reasons. These discarded fruits were historically used as land fill, while recently they have been proposed as a valuable energy source for bioelectricity generation. According to Moerman's ladder, however, processing human grade food waste into pet food ingredients is a more desirable option than using them for chemicals and materials, as pet food accounts or higher-quality material.



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