

Canine Christmas Cookies

It's the season of giving! Gift your doggie friends this homemade special, but simple(!) treat! This easy recipe makes a batch of cut out (or even crumbled) cookies that your dog will devour. Wrap and share as a holiday gift. Treat yourself and make the time to create the recipe with a special someone. Even the dogs will feel the love this Christmas season!

Cookie Ingredients: Whole wheat flour (or substitute oat flour), oatmeal (unflavored quick cook or regular rolled oats), unsweetened applesauce, honey, water, carob chips (optional, but adorable)

Materials:

Cookie sheet – see below for nonstick ideas

Cookie cutters – change the cutter for different themes

Rolling pin, toothpicks, and ruler

Edible food marker pens (also optional)

Rainbow sprinkles (not chocolate)



Directions:

- 1) Adults - preheat the oven to **325°**. Use a nonstick cookie sheet, a silicon liner, nonstick spray, or dust your cookies with extra flour to prevent sticking.
- 2) Use **whole wheat flour** to add nutritional value to these biscuits. But if you don't have that on hand you can quickly make **oat flour**. Measure the desired amount of oats and pulverize in a food processor until powdery smooth.
- 3) Then in a medium bowl combine **1½ cups of whole wheat or oat flour** with **½ cup of oatmeal**. Stir in **1/3 cup of applesauce**, **1 tablespoon of honey**, and **1/3 cup of water**. Mix until a ball forms, and then knead on a floured surface until it's smooth. If the dough is sticky, add more flour and continue to knead.
- 4) Use the rolling pin to roll out (an approximate) **¼ inch** thickness. Cut out the desired shapes. Then instead of re-rolling the dough, simply break up the leftover scraps into small pieces. Cook on a separate cookie sheet, shaking the pan half way through. (Dogs are a very receptive audience to cookies of all shapes and sizes!)
- 5) Bake for **15-20 minutes**, rotating the pan half way through and shaking the scrap pan.
- 6) Adults - let the cookies cool completely. Then **melt ½ cup of carob chips** in a microwave safe bowl at half power for 30-second intervals, stirring often. Use a toothpick or piping bag to spread the carob as dog-safe decorations for the cookies. Remember dogs *cannot* eat real chocolate. Check out our example pictures of our **gingerbread people** and evergreen **Christmas trees** on the website!
- 7) Share your biscuits (and pups!) on social media at **#littlechildrenBIGactivity**.

See the "I've been thinking..." section at www.joanruddimanedd.com for continuously updated content.