



# TOPINSECT PINKIES

**Pinkies are the most used frozen insects. If we let birds choose, they'll often prefer this insect. It's a maggot with a soft skin and rather tasty. Pinkies are the larvae of the Green bottle fly.**

The name pinkies is derived from the English word "pink" because of their pink colour when they clean themselves before they pupate.

The Green bottle fly (*Phaenicia sericata*) is a common fly. The four phases of this insect are: fly – egg – larva – pupa. This fly is known to be about 10 to 14 mm long and can be recognised by its metallic blue-greenish or golden colouring with black marks on the back. The Green bottle fly lives especially as a larva (maggot) from the meat of dead and live animals, and is moreover famous in animal husbandry due to its reputation to eat sheep among others alive (Myiasis). This fly lays her eggs in warm and humid places, such as sheep wool. Within a few hours or days, the maggots hatch out of the eggs and plant themselves with their mouth hooks to the sheep's skin. This is where the maggots feed themselves with the flesh from the skin. A sheep with a great deal of maggots is likely to die within the week. The flesh eating quality of a larva is also used for people who have bad-healing wounds. Several larvae are put on the skin to eat the rotting flesh (maggot debridement therapy).

This is the reason why we don't advice to feed live pinkies to animals. If the larva isn't dead, she can still cause internal damage in the beak of young birds, such as cropper foration.

Pinkies from our farms are bred on fresh offal from the food industry. These farms are under strict supervision of government agencies of EU food safety authority.

Before the pinkies can be processed on our equipment, they have to be perfectly clean or in other words: the food which was used to breed the larva shouldn't be present anymore in them. This process is naturally performed because; in nature, a larva stops eating when it's time to pupate. In the end, it all adds up to a perfect timing and organisation.

Due to the boiling and shock freezing process on our equipment, the pinkies are disposed of all bacteria and become virtually sterile. The remaining fraction of bacteria and fungus is well below the standards which apply to human and animal food. This is frequently verified through analysis. The double process makes the pinkies also better digestible for animals.

## Feeding Directions

Topinsect insects should always be defrosted before being offered to animals. An insect which is still frozen could cause stomach or intestinal cramps.

Never offer an animal more defrosted insects than it can eat. If too many insects are offered, they'll not be eaten and their quality will decrease rapidly.

### How defrosting Topinsect insects?

- Spread the insects out in a thin layer in a warm room for about a quarter of an hour.
- If you wish to accelerate the defrosting process, you should put the insects in a kitchen sieve with fine mesh and wash them with cold or tepid water.

### *How offering defrosted Topinsect insects?*

To birds, reptiles and amphibians:

- Always use clean dishes or jars
- Do not place the insects in direct sunlight or under a lamp in a terrarium and cover the dishes to put them in the shadow. Due to the high temperature and high protein percentage, the feed will dry out and the decomposition (rot) accelerates. A steak in the sun will neither be long edible.
- It is recommended to offer smaller parts several times per day in case of warm weather.

To fishes:

- The Topinsect insects can be thrown in the aquarium or pond once they are defrosted.
- The following rule also applies here: never offer more insects than necessary because insects which are not eaten immediately will sink to the bottom and rot.

### **Analyses**

|               | In Fresh | In Dry Matter |
|---------------|----------|---------------|
| Fluid         | 69,6 %   | 0%            |
| Dry Material  | 30,4 %   | 0 %           |
| Raw ashes     | 1,6%     | 5,3 %         |
| Protein       | 15,4 %   | 50,7 %        |
| Fat           | 11,3%    | 37,2 %        |
| Carbohydrates | 2,1%     | 6,9 %         |
| Starch        | 0 %      | 0%            |

### **Packaging**

1 litre package or in bulk; 13 x 1 litre

1 litre of pinkies is approximately 500 gm.

**Store at -18°C**

Distributed by:

