

# Best Animal-Friendly Retailer

Winner: [Whole Foods](#)



Founded in 1980 as one small store in Austin, Texas, Whole Foods Market is now the world's leading retailer of natural and organic foods, with 166 stores in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Celebrating the maxim that variety is the spice of life, Whole Foods offers an impressively wide and tempting selection of healthy vegetarian foods—cereals, snacks, juices, frozen foods, baked goods, convenience foods, soups, produce, and rows of products in bulk bins! The retailer's very own "365" brand delivers quality in grocery products as well as cruelty-free personal care and household products at competitive prices. For people on the go, Whole Foods' deli counter offers a plethora of delectable, mouth-watering vegan choices: sesame-encrusted seitan, roasted asparagus, tofu teriyaki, sweet potato cutlets, and more! No deprivation here.

Whole Foods has consistently done more for animal welfare than any retailer in the industry, requiring that its producers adhere to strict standards. Recently, Whole Foods launched the Animal Compassion Foundation. John Mackey, the chair, CEO, and cofounder of Whole Foods Market, observed, "By creating the Foundation, Whole Foods Market is pioneering an entirely new way for people to relate to farm animals—with the animals' welfare becoming the most important goal."

