

# Bite into these hot dog facts

Few foods may seem as American as hot dogs. However, hot dogs are derivative of European sausages. This fact and more can shed light on the humble hot dog, which is sure to find its way to a grill near you this summer.

- Mental Floss says it's pretentious to consume a hot dog with utensils. Hot dog etiquette experts also insist adults

should not top their hot dogs with ketchup, which they suggest is a topping strictly reserved for children.

- Hot dogs are often associated with New York City. However, hot dogs gained popularity across the country in the 20th century.

- Hot dogs are often called frankfurters. This refers to Frankfurt, Germany,

where pork sausages similar to hot dogs are believed to have originated.

- Hot dogs were given their name by cartoonist Tad Dorgan. He observed a vendor selling "hot dachshund sausage dogs" during a baseball game at New York City's Polo Grounds. As legend has it, Dorgan couldn't spell the name of the dog, instead writing only "hot dogs." The

name eventually caught on.

- Despite several jokes as well as speculation regarding what hot dogs contain, hot dogs are cured and cooked sausages that contain mainly pork, beef, chicken, and turkey. The meats come from the muscle of the animals. If a product contains organ meats, it must be declared on the packaging.

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