

COMPANIONS

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Science Diet Healthy Advantage A Great New Food Dr. Nancy Altena

As those of you who attended our PAWS talk series on nutrition know, there is A LOT more to a good food than a fancy label! It can be very confusing sifting out the good from the bad and the just plain marketing hype. Here is a little review of some information on pet food for those of you who could not attend.

When it comes to pet foods I feel like it has gotten more and more confusing the longer I have been in veterinary medicine. It used to be pretty easy—adult foods, puppy/kitten foods and senior foods.

The first thing I look for when researching a new food is whether or not it is AAFCO certified. AAFCO is the Association of American Feed Control Officials. This organization sets the nutritional standards for pet foods sold in the United States. They certify by 2 different methods: formulation and feeding trials. The formulation method is less expensive for companies to do because no actual feeding or digestibility trials are needed. There is no guarantee of nutrient bioavailability when utilizing this

method. The label will say something like...Brand X cat Formula is formulated to meet the nutritional levels established by the Association of American Feed Control Officials cat food nutrient profiles for maintenance.

The feeding trial method is the “gold standard” for determining nutritional adequacy. The manufacturer must perform an AAFCO protocol feeding trial using the food being tested as the sole source of nutrition. Feeding trials are the best way to document how a pet will perform when fed a specific food. Look for a label that says...Animal feeding test using AAFCO procedures substantiate that Brand Y Adult dog food provides complete and balanced nutrition for maintenance of adult dogs. Look for foods certified by feeding trial for specific life stages (maintenance, puppy/kitten, senior). Remember, food certified for “all life stages” means it is formulated for puppies/kittens and pregnant or nursing mothers as these are the groups that have the highest calorie and nutrient needs. The senior

pet that is getting little activity doesn't need this food!

The next thing to remember about food labels is that the guaranteed analysis gives the minimum and maximum for protein, fat, fiber and moisture. It does NOT give the true amount of the nutrient. Looking at the actual nutrient content from the manufacturer is a better way to evaluate the food. What is required for the company to print is the minimum protein, the minimum fat, the maximum fiber and maximum moisture.

Ingredient statement—ingredients are listed in descending order by their predominance by weight according to the products formula. The nutrient value of the ingredients cannot be identified from the ingredient statement. Beware the food label that lists its protein source first (e.g. beef or chicken) but then lists 3, 4, 5 or more carbohydrate sources—when these are added up by weight they often will exceed the weight of the first ingredient! A nutrient is a substance that must be consumed as part of the diet to provide a

source of energy, material for growth, or substances to regulate growth or energy production; the 6 key nutrients are vitamins, fat & mineral, carbohydrates & protein and water. No single ingredient makes a food better or worse; a pet food is the sum of its parts.

Okay, the next step is to compare foods on a dry matter basis (DMB). Looking at the DMB helps us know what specific level of nutrients are in a product. To convert a food from “as fed” to DMB:

-FIRST: subtract the moisture content from 100

♥ E.g. 100% - 75% moisture = 25% DMB

♥ E.g. 100% - 10% moisture = 90% DMB

-SECOND: Divide the nutrient by the DMB

♥ E.g. 10% protein as fed / 25% DMB = 40% protein

♥ E.g. 18% protein as fed / 90% DMB = 20% protein

Do these calculations for each ingredient you want to compare—this way you are comparing apples to apples

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ROBYN'S FUND UPDATE

Robyn's Fund exists for homeless animals in need of veterinary care. Robyn's Fund is funded completely by donations.

We held our annual Robyn's Fund rummage sale fundraiser on May 7 this year. We are please to report that we succeeded in raising \$348.60 for the fund. We would like to thank everyone who either donated items for the sale or stopped in to purchase items.

We would also like to thank the Kaiminaauao family for their donation to the fund as well as the many anonymous people who dropped money into the donation box at the front desk. We would also like to thank the CAH team members who participated in the "ya know" jar we had going and paid their "fine" for saying "ya know". It was all in good fun and even our Hill's sales representative, Glenn Sinner participated in this during a talk he gave at our clinic and donated money to Robyn's fund.

Thanks to the generous support from everyone involved, Robyn's fund is able to help pets in need of care.

CAH Dates to Remember

Tuesdays of every week CAH is closed from 1-3:30pm for regular team meetings. **August 2 and September 6** we are closed from our extended training from 12-4.

Thursdays of each week we are offering an afternoon bath and nails special. Receive 50% off a nail trim with the purchase of a bath.

July 11 & 12 we will not have doctor appointments available as Dr. Altena will be at a seminar.

September 5 CAH will be closed in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

September 6 tune into WJON AM 1240 at 10:40am to hear Dr. Altena talk about a pet health care topic.

September 15 Healing Hearts pet loss support group resumes from 7-8pm after taking a summer break.

October 24 at 7:00pm CAH will be holding our next PAWS for Pet Owner Education Lecture. The topic will be Arthritis in pets. Please call to RSVP.



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or kibble to kibble as the case may be!

These are just a few of the steps we use to evaluate different foods.

The prescription foods are absolutely awesome for pets that are dealing with a specific problem and all of Hill's Prescription foods have studies to show that they help the problem they were developed to help. For example, k/d (kidney diet) for cats has been proven to add 2 years of good quality life with fewer crises during those 2 years when fed to cats with kidney insufficiency. When you have to treat a disease and can treat it with something you have to do every day any way (feed your pet) - and it works so well—what more can you ask for! It's the other situations that

have gotten difficult—the things like having a good hair coat for dogs with allergies but the allergies are not so severe as to need a prescription food, or the cat with hairballs; how about the dog or cat that builds up tartar faster than you can keep up with brushing (you are brushing teeth right?!). The foods developed for these problems have also been very helpful—but, what about the pet who has tartar buildup, hair balls, AND is prone to obesity. Sometimes we have had clients buy 2 or 3 different foods and mix them together so they get some of the benefit of each food. This has worked to some degree but it does "dilute" out the main benefit for each individual food.

I am so excited about Science Diet's newest food precisely because of this

situation. They have developed a food that is high fiber and relatively low calorie to help pets maintain a lean body weight; plus it has L-carnitine which helps with weight loss and maintaining lean body mass; plus the patented fiber matrix that is part of the Oral Care diets to help with dental care. Glucosamine to help for healthy joints (dogs) and optimum calcium, phosphorous and ash levels to maintain bladder health (cats). Finally, a mixed fiber source for easy digestion, less gas, fewer hair balls and increased digestibility for a healthy gastrointestinal tract! WOW, this is the food I have been wanting for years—1 food that has all the benefits of multiple separate foods.

We have not carried maintenance foods for a long

time because of my frustrations with having to have so many different foods. With the new Science Diet Healthy Advantage we will once again be carrying this maintenance food. There are very few pets that won't be benefited by eating this food that is AAFCO certified by feeding trials. Pets that have other health concerns (like kidney disease, food allergies, heart disease, liver disease, diabetes...) will still need their respective prescription diets to help them stay healthy and pain free for as long as possible. Puppies, kittens, adults and seniors that are generally healthy will all benefit from Science Diet Healthy Advantage.

Please call and talk to one of our nutritional counselors to get your pet started on the road to better health with a new diet.

Featured Product Oxbow Foods for Small Animals

Oxbow Pet Products is a leader in small animal nutrition with a wide selection of specifically formulated products that maximize health. Their products are recommended by top exotic veterinarians, and are available for rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, rats, hamsters, gerbils and even tortoises! They offer a delicious assortment of treats, pellets, hays, nutritional supplements and litter. There is no other company in the world that knows more about the uses and varieties of hay for the well-being of small animals. Oxbow pellets differ from others in the way that they are species specific, life staged and 100% completely fortified. If there is a type that we don't carry in stock, we can order it for you. For more information on Oxbow Pet Products visit their website at www.oxbowanimalhealth.com

Referral Credits

Did you know you can earn credits on your account and other great rewards for referring family and friends to us for their pet's veterinary care.

We want you to know that we always welcome the chance to meet your family, friends or coworkers and that you can earn rewards yourself as well.

Summer is here!

Does your dog love the water? Use these tips to keep your dog safe and comfortable at water play.

If it is not safe for people, it is not safe for pets. Obey warning signs that say "Do Not Swim" or "Beach Closed."

Make sure your dog can swim. Not all dogs are natural swimmers. Dogs with short legs, dense bodies, and a short or no tail have a hard time staying afloat. Dogs with flat noses have a hard time breathing in water. Dogs that are old or overweight tire easily. Introduce your dog to water gradually and in a situation where you have control.

Make sure the water is clean. Lakes, ponds and rivers may contain chemicals, sewage, algae, bacteria, or other bits and bugs that can cause trouble when they come into contact with your pet's skin—or the inside of its stomach. Do not let your dog drink or swim in water that is not clean.

Consider the temperature. Cold water can quickly lower your pet's body temperature and cause hypothermia. If it is too cold for you, it is too cold for your pet.

Give your dog a drink. Bring clean water from home, and offer it to your dog often. That way, it is less likely to drink water in pools, rivers or lakes that may be harmful or cause stomach trouble.

Avoid infections. If your dog is prone to skin and ear infections, talk to your veterinarian about whether your pet should avoid water, because moisture can encourage infections.

Watch for soreness afterward. Swimming is great exercise for a dog with arthritis, but your pet may be sore afterward. Talk to your veterinarian before you take your pet swimming.

Bring a first aid kit. Sharp objects underwater can cut your pet's feet and legs. Carry a first aid kit that contains a disinfectant (e.g. iodine), an antibiotic ointment for superficial wounds and sterile bandages.

Make your dog wear a life vest. A life vest is important at the ocean because pets can be pulled under by strong tides and currents. When on a boat, a dog should wear a vest; when the boat is moving, be sure your dog is secured by a leash or is in a crate. Be sure the vest is on right and fits well; adjust the straps to make it snug but not tight.

End with a good bath. After a day in the water, bathe your pet with a mild shampoo to remove chlorine, sea salt or contaminants. Use an ear cleaner and flush its eyes with sterile saline solution.

Turn in early. Do not be surprised if your pet is unusually tired after a day in the sun and water. You probably will be too! Get a good night's sleep, and take it easy the next day.



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Compassionate Care for You and Your Companion
Return Service Requested

**Come Visit Us At Our Table at
the 23rd Annual Tri-County
Humane Society Companion
Walk on 9/10/11**

**Registration for the walk
begins at 9:00am**



Companions Animal Hospital Philosophy Statement

We treasure the unique family-pet bond by providing comprehensive high-quality veterinary care with emphasis on exceptional client service and patient care. We promote this level of service by keeping current on medical advances, offering continuing education for our healthcare team, and being compassionate and understanding towards pets and those who love them.