

Understanding pet food labels

In the EU, pet food labeling is governed by legislation for animal feed. Some terminology used in pet food labeling may be more relevant to farmers than pet owners.

Legal requirements mandate that pet food labels include specific essential information, including a list of ingredients, additives, and a nutritional analysis, as well as feeding guidelines.

The term "complete" holds a legal significance in pet food terminology. It signifies that the product includes all essential nutrients necessary to sustain a pet's daily life when fed to your according to instructions mentioned by them. In contrast, "complementary" pet foods are also accessible. Complementary foods necessitate the addition of other foods to achieve nutritional balance. For instance, this may involve incorporating mixer biscuits or treats alongside the main diet.

composition The majority of pet foods are produced using a recipe that incorporates multiple ingredients. These ingredients are typically listed under the category of "composition," arranged in descending order of weight. This listing may include general categories like "meat and animal derivatives," as mandated by regulations, or it may provide a detailed breakdown of individual ingredients, resembling the format of a human food label.

Additives A variety of additives, including vitamins, flavors, preservatives, antioxidants, and colors, can be incorporated into pet food formulations. However, all these additives must undergo safety and efficacy evaluations before being approved for use. These regulations are strictly enforced by EU legislation. To obtain detailed information regarding the specific additives present in a particular pet food, contacting the manufacturer is recommended.

DOGGO FOODS

THE COMPLETE FOOD FOR YOUR DOGS

The nutritional needs of dogs vary based on factors such as size, age, and activity level. The provided information serves as a general guideline, and for more specific details, individuals can refer to the contact numbers provided below.

When combining with canned dog food, it's advised to halve the recommended figures and create a 50:50 mixture of dry and canned foods for the meal.

Composition: Animal Derivatives (8% Beef and 6% Lamb), Whole Grains, Essential Minerals, Digestive Fibers, Natural Flavors and Antioxidants, Various sugar

Additives(per kg): Colorants, Nutritional Additives: Vitamin D2 y IU, Vitamin A z IU, Copper sulphate monohydrate xx mg, Zinc sulphate heptahydrate, x mg
Analytical constituents (%): Protein 34, Crude Fibers 2.6, Fat content 7, Incinerated Residue 3

various sugars serves as a general category description that can encompass substances like sucrose (commonly known as table sugar), fructose, glucose, or natural products such as honey.

Meat and animal derivatives refer to animal-based ingredients utilized in pet foods, excluding dairy, which is categorized separately. These ingredients are derived from healthy animals that have been slaughtered under veterinary supervision. They consist of parts of the animals that are typically not consumed by humans, such as lungs, kidneys, and tripe.


Crude ash," "Inorganic matter," or "Incinerated residue" are legal terms used interchangeably to denote the mineral content present in pet food. These terms do not indicate the addition of specific ingredients; rather, they refer to the mineral residue remaining after incineration during the manufacturing process.

For further details about a product, you can reach out to pet food companies via their customer care lines, the contact information for which is typically provided on the packaging. Additionally, comprehensive product information is often available on the company's official website.






Feeding Protocol: Guidelines for Pet Nutrition

Feeding recommendations are formulated based on the average pet. However, it's essential to take into account factors such as size, age, and activity level of your pet for determining the appropriate amount to feed them. You can begin with the recommended quantity and monitor your pet's weight and body condition regularly.

Adjust the feeding amount as needed to ensure your pet maintains a healthy weight and condition. You could get an idea of the feeding amount by referring size-o-meters that are prepared for your pets.



DOG SIZE-O-METER

| Size-O-Meter Score: | | Characteristics: |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 VERY THIN More than 20% below ideal body weight |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ribs, spine and hip bones are very easily seen (in short haired pets) Obvious loss of muscle bulk No fat can be felt under the skin |
| 2 THIN Between 10-20% below ideal body weight |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ribs, spine and hip bones easily seen Obvious waist and abdominal tuck Very little fat can be felt under the skin |
| 3 IDEAL |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ribs, spine and hip bones easily felt Visible waist with an abdominal tuck A small amount of fat can be felt |
| 4 OVERWEIGHT 10-15% above ideal body weight |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ribs, spine and hip bones are hard to feel Waist barely visible with a broad back Layer of fat on belly and at base of tail |
| 5 OBESSE More than 15% above ideal body weight |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ribs, spine and hip bones extremely difficult to feel under a thick layer of fat No waist can be seen and belly may droop significantly Heavy fat pads on lower back and at the base of the tail |

Source - [Food, U. P. \(n.d.\). UK Pet Food | Pet Food Industry Association | Formerly PFMA.](#)

Reference [FEDIAF | Home. \(n.d.\).](#)