

Aug. 2002

Updated Report by Eric Weisman

The Actual Ingredients Meat-Based Pet Food Companies Use in Dry and Canned Foods

Fresh healthy chicken, lean steak cuts of beef, whole grains, vitamins, minerals and all the other nutritious ingredients your cat or dog will need to live the longest and healthiest life.

This is the picture that the meat-based pet food manufacturers want you to believe. They want the public to think that they are buying pet food that is better than the food they buy for themselves. The 11 billion dollar per year United States Meat-Based Pet Food Industry wants you to believe you are feeding your pet the very best nutrients available. This article discusses the difference between what consumers think they are buying versus what they actually get in meat-based pet foods.

PETA, Animal's Agenda, Animal People, API and even the 20/20 television news program have done reports on the pet food industry that have findings similar to this article. This document focuses on meat-based pet food companies specifically. There is only one pet food company that we know of in the entire country, if not the world, that does not use the products described in this report. This report refers to the ingredients that go into well known brands like Science Diet, IAMS, Eukanuba, Purina, Pedigree, Waltham, Nutro-Max, Solid Gold, Dr. Ballard's, Old Roy, Authority, Alpo, 9 Lives, Vet's, Kal Can, Sheeba, Wysong, etc...

Most people are unaware that the meat-based pet food industry uses a lot of the products that the human food industry can't. Pet food companies are the purchasers of slaughterhouse waste, sick animals, road kill, even euthanized veterinary and shelter dogs and cats. Only one pet food company we know of does not use any of the above products.

All the meat-based companies above are using some of the above products in their foods. These by products also include cow heads, tongues, intestines and other entrails, but they also include cancerous tumors and large infectious cysts.

For fat content, the pet food companies will not only employ rancid waste and animal fat, but used fryer fat from McDonald's, Burger King, Kentucky Fried and other restaurants as well. Of the five major pet food companies in the U.S., four are subsidiaries of giant multinational food companies. This gives the slaughterhouse industry an ideal place to dump their waste and get paid for it. Who says that you can't make money in the pet food business selling garbage?

We are not saying that all the above companies use all of the above ingredients, but they are all using some. As you get into the cheaper brands more waste is used. The very cheap foods incorporate cooked animal waste as part of their ingredients. Again we know of only one pet food company that does not use any diseased animals or parts.

The Real Ingredients

The purchase price of a pet food reflects the quality of ingredients to some extent. Obviously, it would not be possible for a well-advertised brand of pet food to sell all the best meat cuts in a 20 lb. Bag for only \$20.00, because the cost of the ingredients and advertising would easily exceed the selling price. Think for a moment about how much you would pay for premium U.S.D.A. beef and poultry on a per pound basis. Then

think about the cost of vitamins (one month supply), costing about \$10.00. How much nutritional value are you really getting in that \$.50 to \$1.50 a pound pet food? Then consider the cost of national television and magazine advertising. Not very much money is left for the cost of ingredients, and that is why the meat-based pet food industry does not put much nutrition in their foods.

Extensive heat processing is required by federal and state law to help kill the toxic organisms in the diseased flesh that is put into pet food. In reality the organisms or toxic material is not entirely destroyed, because the temperatures required to do so would destroy the entire product. Therefore, toxic materials are routinely put in all meat-based pet foods (including the premium products already mentioned in this article). Unfortunately, the heat from the cooking process is adequate to destroy many of the vitamins that are added to the pet food. Vitamins are added to the food to compensate for the high temperatures in the cooking process.

The protein in meat-based pet food comes from a variety of animals. Chickens, pigs, lambs, cows, calves, and turkeys have their carcasses trimmed of lean muscle for human consumption. After the removal of human grade meat, the leftovers known as “by-products” (heads, intestines, hooves, beaks, ligaments, excised infectious and/or cancerous cysts) are used for pet food. Even when “by-products” are not listed on the label you are getting them in meat-based pet food. Whole sick or diseased dead animals do not have to be defined on the pet food label: State and Federal governments simply do not require it. Ambiguous labels do not have to define the health of the meat-based ingredients in pet foods. That is how the meat-based pet food companies put diseased chickens and lambs in their food without telling you.

The trade association for the U.S. Pet Food Manufacturers, the Pet Food Institute, addresses the importance of using by-products in pet foods as an important way to reduce the costs of production. According to them, “the purchase and use of these ingredients by the pet food industry not only provides the nutritional needs for pets at reasonable costs, but provides an important source of income to American farmers and processors of meat, poultry and seafood products for human consumption.”

Meat by-products and diseased animals are a questionable source of nutrition and many of them are of course substantially contaminated. Some of these cooked by-products and diseased animals can actually cause disease in your pet. In the worst-case even immediate death can result from lethal toxins that vary in concentration from lot to lot. In other words, the amount of contamination or nutrition can vary from delivery container to delivery container. Quinton Rogers, PhD. and James Morris, PhD., professors of the Department of Molecular Biosciences, University of California at Davis Veterinary School Of Medicine say, “There is very little information on the bio-availability of nutrients for companion animal food.... Many of the common dietary ingredients vary so much in quality from each shipment that it would be difficult to regulate. These ingredients are the by-products of meat, poultry and fishing industries, with the potential for a wider variation in nutrient composition. **Claims of nutritional adequacy of pet foods, based on the current Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) nutrient allowances (“profiles”) do not give assurances of nutritional adequacy and will not until ingredients are analyzed and bio-availability values are incorporated.**”

Realistically this will never happen. The meat based pet food industry already knows that they are using ingredients of questionable nutritional value. They know that some are actually toxic. Why would they want to spend more money to find out how poor or how toxic their ingredients already are? Federal and local governments never will enforce such requirements because they approve of the use of animal by-products and sick animals in pet food. Here is a typical case where the meat industry controls the government. The only way to get around the use of what goes into all meat based pet foods is to use a complete vegetarian based pet food. Again, Evolution Diet provides the only complete pet foods that meet government standards without using diseased animals and parts.

My own clandestine research interviewing employees from rendering plants highlighted another very disturbing fact: Euthanized cats and dogs are also being used by the pet food industry. Although pet food industry officials vehemently deny this report, the American Veterinary Medical Association confirms this fact. Animals that are chemically euthanized with virulent poisons become a part of the meat-based pet food brew without ever being labeled as an ingredient.

Another disturbing issue concerns the use of road kill in pet foods. Deer, elk and other wild and

domestic animals that are killed by cars and trucks go into pet food and animal feed. It is now acknowledged that many deer and elk are dying from a chronic wasting disease that is related to mad cow disease. Tens of thousands of these animals are being killed in Colorado, Montana, and Wisconsin by the State DNR agencies.

In Minnesota alone, an estimated ten thousand deer and elk are killed by vehicles every year. The nerve prions that cause wasting disease can not be effectively destroyed by cooking. These nerve prions could be in your pet food.

Feed officials turn their heads to such practices because the meat industry has such powerful financial influence in federal and state government that it is allowed to literally “police” itself.

The Department of Agriculture is very much like the rigged two party system in the U.S. You do have a choice. All the money is behind both the Republican and Democratic candidates. Generally, you only hear about the candidates industry wants you to hear about. Your choice is to find out about other party candidates by yourself. Similarly, you only get to read what the meat-based pet food industry wants you to read on their labels. The pet food industry doesn't have to tell you that the cows, pigs, chickens or lambs that go into pet food are 4 D (disabled, diseased, dying or dead from disease). They don't have to. If you want to find out what really goes into pet food, your choice may be to read articles like this or follow the road from the slaughterhouse to the pet food plant.

What effects are meat-based pet foods having on your animals? Some veterinarians claim that diseased animals and slaughterhouse waste contain the toxins that cause cancer, arthritis and lameness, brain and heart diseases, loss of continence, and other degenerative disorders in pets.

Another important factor is that a lot of the hormones and antibiotics used to fatten up animals for slaughtering, concentrates in both the sick animals and the by-products used for pet food. Again cooking these ingredients simply does not destroy their toxicity. Meat-based pet food eating cats and dogs die from the heart, brain, and cancer diseases similar to humans that eat meat.

Your veterinarian may tell you that cats and dogs need meat in their food to live a reasonably long and healthy life. This is simply an incorrect assumption perpetuated by the slaughterhouse industry to get rid of their waste products. Pet Food Companies go into the Veterinary Colleges to teach their doctrine and even give vet students free pet food. Veterinarians like medical doctors have a very limited background in nutrition. Of the veterinary colleges I surveyed, the average length of formal nutritional training is only one week. Evolution has shown that vegetarian cats and dogs can live a long and healthy life with little or no veterinary treatment required over thirteen years. Thousands of cats and dogs are now eating Evolution.

The only way to guarantee that your pet will not be eating diseased animals and parts in their pet food is to purchase alternatives. Evolution is the only company that I know of in the entire world that has a full line of nutritionally complete vegetarian cat and dog foods. This company meets AAFCO standards of nutritional completeness and doesn't have any of the negative ingredients found in virtually all meat-based pet foods. All their animals are treated to a home environment instead of cages. Evolution has been in business for over 13 years. Evolution has thousands of healthy cats and dogs on their foods, because they ship out thousands of pounds of pet food every week all over the United States. Evolution distributes to grocery store chains, health food stores, pet stores, veterinarians, breeders, kill-free shelters, and other distributors. Please ask your retailer to carry Evolution Diet Pet Foods.

I have read a multitude of compiled mail from delighted customers that have had their cats or dogs on Evolution products for many years. The Evolution Home Style Cattery and Dog Kennel Animals are doing extremely well on Evolution Diet. Evolution Superfortified Pet Health Food Company is located in St. Paul, Minnesota. Last but not least, Evolution is cruelty-free! The animals that go into meat-based pet foods are

probably the most brutally treated animals of all. Please don't support the incredible cruelty by buying meat-based pet food.

The Peculiar Odor given off by Pet Food

Next time you open a can of moist or a bag of dry meat-based pet food you may notice a distinct smell of decay. Cats and Dogs are attracted to the smell of decaying flesh. That is exactly what you are smelling. Slaughterhouse waste melted with hydrochloric acid and mixed with rancid fat is sprayed on dry pet food or added to canned pet food. This animal digest is mixed with rancid animal fat and vegetable oil. The used rancid vegetable oil comes from restaurant fryers after it can no longer be used for humans. Sounds delicious. I can hardly wait to taste some.

These fats are often mixed with powerful antioxidant chemicals like the rubber stabilizer Ethoxyquin. This powerful chemical will stop oxidation completely in almost anything including automobile tires. Ethoxyquin prevents rubber from becoming brittle. Unfortunately, it can cause cancer in cats and dogs. This is another reason why cats and dogs often have foul breath. The diseased animals and parts also make for foul breath and inflame the pancreas.

From the beginning, Evolution has become the industry leader by using vitamins and plant based antibiotics for preservation instead of chemical preservatives. Evolution uses Vitamin E preserved vegetable oil that is fresh at the time that it is added to their pet foods. Vitamin C and garlic are added to prevent deterioration to the food and to your pet. Garlic also tastes good and gives an antibiotic-antiviral effect to the food. Garlic is a common flavor in many commercial meat-based pet foods. EW

Evolution gets fresh pet food manufactured every one-to-two months. Evolution meets AAFCO requirements for completeness. Evolution has its' own rescue cattery and dog kennel with healthy animals that have been on their food in all life stages. Please ask your grocer, vet, and health food store to carry healthy, cruelty-free Evolution.