



House Paws Home Veterinary Care
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Royal Canin Nutrition

By-Products

Many Royal Canin foods contain by-products. There is widespread misinformation about the use of by-products in pet food, and many consumers believe by-products are unhealthy for their pets. The Association of American Feed Control (AAFCO) has strict standards regarding the addition of by-products to pet food, and all Royal Canin's food products meet AAFCO's strict standards. These by-products are added to pet food to provide a superior nutritional profile and supplement quality protein, vitamins and minerals.

Royal Canin only uses high-quality by-products, such as heart, liver and lungs, that are properly processed and provide valuable nutrients. Royal Canin suppliers also meet AAFCO standards, and they have a strict food testing program to ensure quality and safety in both raw materials and finished goods.

Grains

Grains like corn and wheat are excellent sources of protein, vitamins, minerals and fiber. When processed properly, grains can be a healthy part of any cat or dog's diet. Properly processed corn may contain many more nutrients than ingredients used as corn replacements (eg. potato and tapioca) in grain-free diets. Royal Canin grinds its corn very finely before the corn is added to any formulas, making it an effective and digestible carbohydrate source. They also recently added some corn gluten meal and wheat gluten to feline and canine formulas. These are great sources of highly digestible protein, and wheat gluten contains amino acids that support gastrointestinal health. Both corn and wheat gluten are great complements to chicken meal.

Many consumers are worried that grains will cause health problems in their pets. There is no scientific evidence to support this claim, unless a pet has a food allergy to a grain.

Chicken Meal

Chicken meal consists of dehydrated and defatted chicken. This additive provides a very digestible source of protein for your pet. An ingredient label that lists “chicken” infers that the chicken contained in that product contains chicken meat as well as the fat and water found naturally in chicken meat. Because chicken meal has had all fat and water removed, it is a more concentrated protein source. For this reason, it may be listed lower on the ingredient label than “chicken” would be; this does not mean that the product contains less protein than an ingredient containing unprocessed chicken.

EPA/DHA

EPA and DHA are omega-3 fatty acids that are an excellent addition to any pet’s meal. Scientific veterinary research suggests that omega-3s benefit animals by supporting skin, joint, kidney and heart health. Many consumers search for food products that contain flax seeds in order to supplement EPA/DHA. Flax seeds do not contain EPA/DHA; rather, they provide a precursor that allows your pet to naturally synthesize the omega-3 fatty acids.

Organic & Raw Diets

The term “organic” does not refer to the quality of the raw material or final ingredient of a food product. Organic is used to describe the process under which animals and plants are raised or grown. There is no current scientific data that supports the assumption that organic is healthier for your pet. Many consumers choose organic food products because they often will contain fewer additives and are manufactured in a more sustainable and environmentally-responsible manner. It is important to note that many organic food products will contain flax seeds instead of marine plants and fish as a source of fatty acids. This is beneficial if your pet has a seafood or fish allergy.

Raw diets have become popular recently, and many consumers are asking about making their own raw foods for their pets. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) states that bringing raw meat diets into the home to feed domestic pets is not consistent with efforts to protect the public from health risks posed by raw meat, including bacterial contamination. There is no current scientific evidence that validates the proposed benefits of raw meat diets for pets.



Sources

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