

Cat food label overview

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Manufacturer</p> <p>Research the manufacturer. Most of the brands on the shelves are made by the same manufacturer. Does the manufacturer make other products?</p> | <p>Easy</p> <p>Is the label easy to read? Is it easy to understand? What words jump out at you? What are your initial thoughts on the quality of the product based on</p> | <p>Analysis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Product name rule 2. Ingredient definitions 3. Guaranteed analysis 4. Nutritional adequacy |
| <p>Rules</p> <p>95% = at least 95% of named ingredient "Chicken Delights Cat Food" 25% = 25-94.9% "dinner, entree, platter, recipe, formula, feast" etc.</p> | <p>Ingredients</p> <p>Avoid all forms of mystery meats, meals, by-products, grain, corn, soy, rice, wheat, sugar, chemical preservatives, thickening agents,</p> | <p>Guaranteed analysis</p> <p>Use the GA numbers to get an approximate number of carbs. Remove the moisture to compare cat foods properly.</p> |
| <p>Nutritional adequacy statement</p> <p>"Complete and balanced" is complete. "Supplemental feeding only" is not. "All life stages" = all life stages.</p> | <p>Tricks</p> <p>Manufacturers use fancy claims and marketing gimmicks to distract us from the information that actually matters on the label.</p> | <p>Premium</p> <p>Premium does not have an official AAFCO definition. They state, "Premium pet food doesn't have special requirements"</p> |
| <p>Natural</p> <p>Natural basically just means it came from a plant, animal, or mined sources. Natural does not indicate quality of that</p> | <p>Organic</p> <p>AAFCO relies on the USDA for this claim. "Certified organic foods will display a USDA organic seal and must be made of at least 95%</p> | <p>Human-grade</p> <p>AAFCO states, "Edible is a standard; human-grade is not." A human-grade product must be made with human-grade</p> |

Analyze

Manufacturer information

Fill out the boxes below
based on the label

Check off the boxes that apply
based on the label

Product name

Ingredients list

Guaranteed analysis

Nutritional adequacy
statement

Tricks

- At least 25%
- Meat only named
- Specific meat name

- Specifically named meats
- No mystery meats
- No inappropriate ingredients

- High moisture
- High protein
- Low carbs

- Complete and balanced
- Fits your cat's life stage
- Includes feeding instructions

- No misleading claims
- No distracting messages
- Easy to read the label

Cheat sheet

| Product name | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Simple name (no descriptive words below) 95-100% +2 | _____ |
| 2. "Dinner, platter, entree, formula, feast, recipe, nuggets" 25-99.9% | _____ |
| Meat only +1.5, combo but meat is first +0.5 | |
| 3. "With" 3-24.9% or "Flavor" 0-2.9% +0 | _____ |

Ingredients

| | Yes +0 | No +1 | | Yes +0 | No +1 |
|--|--------|-------|--|--------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meat by-products | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Rice | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry by-products | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Soy | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meat meal | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bone meal | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish meal | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of synthetics | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non specific ing: liver, animal fat, fish oil, animal digest, natural flavor, etc. | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Color dyes | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical preservatives | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat/yeast | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Binding agents | _____ | _____ |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphates | _____ | _____ |

Guaranteed analysis

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---|-------|
| Calculate carbs | Dry matter basis (DMB) | Carb amount DMB | |
| 100 | 100 | >10% +0 <10% +1 | _____ |
| - ___ protein | - ___ moisture | | |
| - ___ fat | = dry matter of food (DM) | Moisture | |
| - ___ fiber | | >65% +1* <65% +0 | _____ |
| - ___ moisture | (___ / ___) * 100 = DMB | | |
| - ___ ash* | GA% DM | *freeze-dried +1 if you rehydrate with water | |
| = ___ approx carbs including moisture | | | |

*If ash N/A, use 3

Bonus: manufacturer, tricks, easy to read,
complete and balanced?

Total
