




AAFCO Feeding Trial vs. "formulated" food

Pet food manufacturers can choose to either "formulate" a pet food, or use AAFCO's Feeding Trial data.

Required Procedures	AAFCO Feeding Trial	"Formulated"
Minimum of 30 dogs (cats) to establish colony average	YES	NO
Minimum of 8 dogs (cats) at least one year of age for each trial.	YES	NO
Same formulation must be used throughout test period.	YES	NO
Test must run a minimum of 26 weeks. (6 months)	YES	NO
Formulation shall be the sole source of nutrients, except water.	YES	NO
Daily food consumption must be measured.	YES	NO
Individual body weights shall be measured and recorded weekly.	YES	NO
Hemoglobin, packed cell volume, other blood chemistry tests done.	YES	NO
Thorough veterinary physical exam done twice during test.	YES	NO

Pet foods that are "formulated" have no required testing to determine if the ingredients used are bio-available or digestible in the dog or cat.

Look for this statement on pet foods to insure feeding trials. 

AAFCO Statement: Animal feeding tests using AAFCO procedures substantiate that Science Diet® Adult Advanced Fitness Original provides complete and balanced nutrition for maintenance of adult dogs.



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What is a By-product?

According to the 2013 Official Publication of AAFCO*, Page 342 (Official Feed Terms), a by-product is defined as:

By-Product - Secondary products produced in addition to the principle product.

Examples:

Lamb meal, Fish meal, Salmon meal,
Vitamin E, Chicken liver, Whey,
Chicken by-product meal, Beet pulp,
Chicken fat, Rice bran, Tomato pomace.

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*AAFCO is the Association of American Feed Control Officials.



What is a By-product?

According to the 2014 Official Publication of AAFCO,
Page 343 (Official Feed Terms), a by-product is defined as:

“By-Product - Secondary products produced in addition to the principle product.”

Examples of ingredients that are by-products:

Lamb meal, Fish meal, Vitamin E, Chicken liver, Egg Product, Chicken by-product meal, Whey, Brewers Dried Yeast Beet pulp, Chicken fat, Rice bran, Tomato pomace.

Here's a sample pet food ingredient label – can you find the hidden by-products?

Deboned Whitefish, Whole Ground Brown Rice, Whole Ground Barley, **Menhaden Fish Meal**, Oatmeal, Canola Oil (preserved with Mixed Tocopherols), **Tomato Pomace** (source of Lycopene), Whole Sweet Potatoes, **Natural Fish Flavor**, Whole Potatoes, Peas, Whole Carrots, Blueberries, Cranberries, Flaxseed (source of Omega 3 and 6 Fatty Acids), Barley Grass, Dried Parsley, Garlic, Alfalfa Meal, Dried Kelp, Yucca Schidigera Extract, L-Carnitine, L-Lysine, Glucosamine Hydrochloride, Turmeric, Sunflower Oil (source of Omega 6 Fatty Acids), **Chicken Fat** (preserved with Mixed Tocopherols), Dried Chicory Root, Oil of Rosemary, Beta Carotene, Vitamin A Supplement, Thiamine Mononitrate (Vitamin B1), Riboflavin (Vitamin B2), Niacin (Vitamin B3), d-Calcium Pantothenate (Vitamin B5), Pyridoxine Hydrochloride (Vitamin B6), Biotin (Vitamin B7), Folic Acid (Vitamin B9), Vitamin B12 Supplement, Calcium Ascorbate (source of Vitamin C), Vitamin D3 Supplement, **Vitamin E Supplement**, Iron Amino Acid Chelate, Zinc Amino Acid Chelate, Manganese Amino Acid Chelate, Copper Amino Acid Chelate, Choline Chloride, Sodium Selenite, Calcium Iodate, Salt, Caramel, Calcium Carbonate, Potassium Chloride, **Dried Yeast**...

The pet food label above is Blue Buffalo, Blue™ Life Protection Formula Fish & Sweet Potato Recipe for Adult Dogs. This product contains 6 different ingredients defined by AAFCO as **BY-PRODUCTS**

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