

What commercial feed products are regulated?

The commercial feed law regulates materials offered for sale as feed or for mixing in feed with the exemption of whole, unprocessed grain, raw meat, hay, straw, stover, silage, cobs, husks and hulls when unground and not mixed with other materials. Typical products regulated include pet foods, complete and concentrate feeds for livestock and poultry, soybean meal and other feed ingredients, drug premixes, vitamin and mineral supplements, liquid feed and protein blocks.

Registration of each commercial feed is required before distribution to ensure that required information is provided to the consumer. This involves annual review of approximately 10,000 labels. Medicated feeds are reviewed for approved drug usage, statement of drug purpose and any required warning, caution or special feeding instructions. Misleading and unsubstantiated information is prohibited.

So, how does the feed regulatory program work for pet owners?

ALL pet food and specialty pet food in Kentucky is required to be labeled with specific information. The pet food and treat labels are the fundamental basis for providing consumer information and protection, equitable competition and regulation. Effective labeling is essential to accomplish these objectives.

Regulatory efforts continue to assist manufacturers to provide informative labeling that promotes the safety and usefulness of feeds for pet owners and livestock producers.

The Division of Regulatory Services

Our Mission

As a part of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Regulatory Services is committed to service and consumer protection of Kentucky citizens, businesses, and industries. Our programs monitor and analyze feed, fertilizer, milk, seed, and soil and are administered using a cooperative, science-based approach.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions about feed labeling requirements or the other duties of the program, please visit our website at:

www.rs.uky.edu/regulatory/feed

You can also email ukfeed@uky.edu or call our office where our staff will be happy to assist you. Our number is (859) 257-2785.



PET FOODS



Understanding Dog and Cat Food Labels

Feed Regulatory Program
Division of Regulatory Services

103 Regulatory Services Building
Lexington, Kentucky 40546-0275

What information is required on a label?

This example label contains the basic information you should find on most dog or cat foods intended to be your pet's daily meal.

What do claims like 'Organic', 'Natural', or 'Holistic' mean? Pet food labels often contain additional voluntary marketing information to help consumers differentiate between products.

Learn more these claims and how pet food is regulated in the US by visiting the AAFCO Talks Pet Food website: talkspetfood.aafo.org.

Ingredient Statement

Every pet food label must have a section which lists the name of each ingredient, in order of most to least, used in the manufacture of the product. Most dog or cat foods include sources of added vitamin and minerals required to keep your pet healthy.

Calorie Content

The label should include the calorie content of the treat in common unit of measurement (per cup) and kcal/kg.

Manufacturer Information

The company or person responsible for the product must be listed on the label with their name and address.

What does a dog or cat food label tell you?

Duke's Chicken Recipe Food
Food for Dogs

Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein (min)	14%
Crude Fat (min)	4%
Crude Fiber (max)	8%
Moisture (max)	10%

Ingredients

Chicken, ground corn, peas, potatoes, fish oil (preserved with tocopherols), natural flavors, potassium chloride, ferrous sulfate, zinc oxide, sodium selenite...

Daily Feeding Directions

Adult Dogs Weighing	Cups to feed
5-10 lbs	1 cup
10-20 lbs	1.5 cups
20-30 lbs	2 cups

Duke's Chicken Recipe Food is formulated to meet the AAFCO Dog Food Nutrient Profiles for maintenance.

Calorie Content

3200 kcal ME/kg; 32 kcal ME/cup

Pet Food Co
103 Regulatory Services Bldg
Lexington, KY 40546

Net Weight 10 lbs (4.5 kg)

Product Name

The name of the product should describe the product being purchased, for ex: "Duke's Chicken Recipe Food." Additionally the front of the label should indicate which species for which the product is intended (i.e. dogs).

Guaranteed Analysis

These four required guarantees provide the purchaser with basic nutritional information. Firms may also provide additional voluntary vitamin, mineral, or other nutrient guarantees.

Feeding Directions

Labels should provide basic information on how to feed the product appropriately. Feeding directions should provide at the least: amount of food to feed your dog or cat per day.

Nutritional Adequacy

Complete and balanced diets intended to be fed as the sole food for your pet are required to contain a proper balance of nutrients required by to meet your pet's needs. Most foods, but not all, meet this requirement by formulating to meet a set of nutritional standards set by AAFCO for different life stages of dogs and cats. In this example, this example food is formulated to meet the needs of adult dogs (maintenance) and thus would not be suitable to feed puppies.

Quantity Statement

Each package must contain an accurate statement of net quantity expressed in ounce—pound units and must include the appropriate metric unit [for ex: 1 lb. (0.45 kg)].