

## Choosing a Diet



### *What diet should I choose for my pet?*

There are a number of good commercial diets on the market. We sell Science Diet and Royal Canin, although there are many others that are acceptable. Keep in mind that the laws governing pet food companies are minimal. Here are a few things to look for:

- High quality protein sources at the top of the ingredient list.
- Whole grains are ideal. Avoid products that contain corn, cornmeal, corn derivatives (other than corn gluten meal), or soy derivatives at the top of the ingredient list, as they are generally thought of as cheap fillers, and commonly aggravate allergies. Other cheap fillers include "soybean mill run", "soy flour", "oat groats", "wheat gluten", among others. Remember that these names, as they pertain to pet food, do not have the same meaning as in human foods.
- Avoid products that contain "meat byproducts" or "animal byproducts" (not specifying which kind) or "meat byproduct meal". Whenever an animal protein source is not specific, manufacturers can include the flesh of *any* animal. This can include, among other disturbing ingredients, rendered animals from agricultural operations.
- Also, avoid byproducts where possible. Whenever you see the word "byproduct", this is defined as any part of an animal not fit for human consumption. Byproducts are not meat; they are essentially everything BUT meat. There are diets on the market that contain no animal byproducts of any kind. Brands include Nutro, Wellness, Naturapet, Merrick, and Chicken Soup for the Pet's Soul, among others. Look for "human grade" where possible.
- Avoid price brands sold at discount stores. Often these diets contain so many cheap fillers, your pet will have to eat a higher quantity to be full, so the "deal" may not even be that fabulous.
- Individual needs vary, so please check with our clinic for the best recommendation for your pet, or if you have any further nutritional questions.

For a guide to Common Pet food ingredients, Click here: [Click here](#).

