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Cat Feeding Guide

You will know from your own nutrition, that a healthy diet plays a central role in your general wellbeing and longevity. Even for a cat that has no medical nutritional requirements or sensitivities, this same principle applies. There are so many cat-diets on the market, that it can be very difficult to decide which diet to feed. Three key factors can help you make an assessment whether the food you are feeding your cat is adequate:

- ✔ is the food complete and balanced
- ✔ is the food for the correct life stage
- ✔ can the manufacturer prove that the food is complete and balanced-
the Label should include either:

“[Name] is formulated to meet the nutritional levels established by the AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profiles for [life stage(s)].”

OR

“Animal feeding tests using AAFCO procedures substantiate [Name] provides complete and balanced nutrition for [life stage(s)].”

In addition, you should be able to rely on the fact that the food you are feeding is safe. In recent years, the feeding of BARF diets has become a popular choice. BARF (Bones and Raw Feeding or Biologically Appropriate Raw Feeding) is the practice of feeding uncooked meat and other components. The accepted veterinary position on this practice is, that it can come with significant potential infection risks to you and your cat. Parasites that can be found within raw meat can only be eliminated through freezing for at least 7 days at -17 to -20°C and we know that not all bacteria are eliminated through freezing. Reports state, all raw diets may be contaminated with significant bacterial content. There are several known risks associated with raw feeding:

- ✔ Gastrointestinal infections in your cat – your cat may or may not have diarrhea, but they will shed the bacteria even if they don’t show any signs
- ✔ Gastrointestinal infections in humans – a cat that is eating raw meat and shedding bacteria as a result can be a risk of infection to you

- ♥ Feeding of bones can lead to damage to the intestines
- ♥ An increase in the development of antibiotic resistance

In addition, evidence is emerging, that suggests cats may be at risk of becoming infected with mycobacteria – the cause of different forms of tuberculosis – through raw feeding.

Finally, it is of course vital that your cat enjoys their food as it forms part of their relationship with you.

On the basis of the information available and our own experience over the years, we have decided to stock Royal Canin as our standard pet food. Royal Canin has a veterinary research background and many years' experience in cat diets. We know therefore, that we can rely on the fact that it fulfills those three key factors explained earlier. We have also experienced, that it has a high palatability. As a Royal Canin stockist, we can pass on a regular loyalty discount and offer you your first bag of kitten food free of charge.

For more information join us at Green Vets on September 29th 6pm for our free talk:

Food for thought: A dogs dinner or a feline feast