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The Whole



Dog Journal™

A monthly guide to natural dog care and training

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Good Times

Twelve years of honoring our dogs.

BY NANCY KERNS

Our 12th year! Wow! Where does the time go? If it wasn't for the fact of making my son pose for photos for articles from time to time, I might not believe WDJ is so old. But Eli was five when he first posed (with our darling old Rupert) for an article about the benefits of using reusable hand-sized heating pads for massaging muscle-sore or arthritic dogs. And he's about to turn 17 – too old to model for our upcoming article about teaching young children how to positively train the family dog. (I did make him go with me to one of our new dog



Otto's training classes a few months ago, and took pictures of them together in class. He's a hair under six feet – too tall to fit in the frame with the dog!

It's been 12 years of progress in the dog world, though. The foods we review have gotten better, and the top-quality varieties have gotten far more numerous. Just look at how many types of healthy foods you can now buy for your dog! I'd probably eat any one of the products included in our review of wet foods ("Yes, We Can!") that appears on page 4 – they are *that* good.

But I won't eat them, and our newsish dog Otto won't either. With this issue done, they go straight to our local animal shelter, which makes the absolute best use of every donation, no matter how

large or small. Since we moved to this town and I first donated dog food (left over from a review), I've been *such* a fan of the facility (the Northwest SPCA) and its supporters, starting with its executive director, Rainy Green. She works daily miracles to improve the facility, add to her staff's education, and do everything she can do for the shelter's wards – all on a tiny budget in one of this state's poorest counties.

And she finds the best people to help her! I recently photographed an employee of the shelter, Humane Of-

ficer James Harrison, for Pat Miller's article about shelters in this issue (page 18). As I set up the camera, Jimmy told me about the two times he's been bitten by a dog in the 12 years he's worked for the NW SPCA. His first bite came in his first year of employment, but he still honors that dog's memory – he used those words – as the animal who taught him to move slowly and gently and take his time with fearful animals. His second bite came in the midst of saving a Malamute who was hanging by a back leg that was wound in wire from the top of an eight-foot fence. He showed me the scar and said, "It was worth it! I saved his life, and saved his leg, too."



I hope WDJ can bring you another 12 years of great ideas and products for your dog from great people.

NK

MISSION STATEMENT: WDJ's mission is to provide dog guardians with in-depth information on effective holistic healthcare methods and successful nonviolent training. The methods we discuss will endeavor to do no harm to dogs; we do not advocate perpetrating even minor transgressions in the name of "greater good." We intend our articles to enable readers to immediately apply training and healthcare techniques to their own dogs with visible and enjoyable success. All topics should contribute to improving the dog's health and vitality, and deepening the canine/human bond. Above all, we wish to contribute information that will enable consumers to make kind, healthy, and informed decisions about caring for their own dogs.

The Whole Dog Journal™

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF – Nancy Kerns
 TRAINING EDITOR – Pat Miller
 PUBLISHER – Timothy H. Cole
 CIRCULATION DIRECTOR – Greg King

EDITORIAL OFFICE

E-MAIL: WholeDogJ@aol.com
 MAIL: PO Box 1349
 Oroville, CA 95965
 PACKAGES: 1655 Robinson Street
 Oroville, CA 95965

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

PHONE: (800) 829-9165
 INTERNET: whole-dog-journal.com/cs
 U.S. MAIL: PO Box 420235
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235
 CANADA: Box 7820 STN Main
 London, Ontario N5Y 5W1

BACK ISSUES, WEBSITE INQUIRIES

PHONE: (800) 424-7887
 E-MAIL: customer_service@belvoir.com
 INTERNET: whole-dog-journal.com
 U.S. MAIL: PO Box 5656
 Norwalk, CT 06856-5656

REPRINTS

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 (203) 857-3144
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NEWSSTAND

Jocelyn Donnellon, (203) 857-3100

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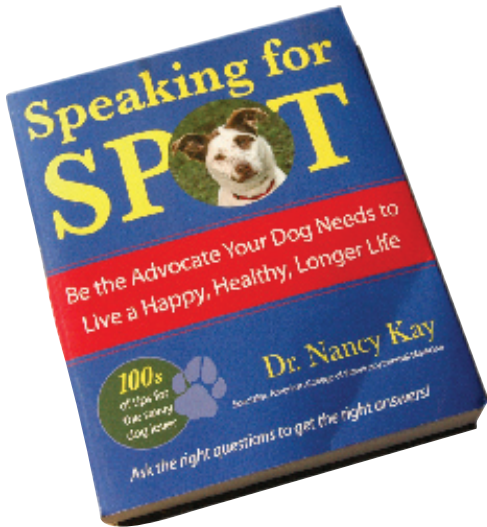
Five You Gotta Try

Some of our favorite dog-care discoveries.



TICKED OFF
Ticked Off, Inc.
Dover, NH
(800) 642-2485
tickedoff.com

Tick-removal tools are in constant use in our homes, because we spend a lot of time with our dogs in the woods. We like the simplicity of this little spoon-shaped tool. We also like that it can remove *tiny* ticks (like the one seen in the photo) as well as the large, disgusting ones that escaped early detection.



At last! An accurate, thorough health book by a vet who promotes the best of conventional veterinary medicine and is aware of its shortfalls, too. Dr. Nancy Kay, a veterinarian who practices in Sonoma County, California, explains the basics of responsible healthcare and what dog owners should know. But she also illustrates how owners must manage their vet/client relationship, and be assertive advocates for their dogs, for the best possible results. In her chapter on "Finding Dr. Wonderful," the list of "deal breakers" (including "The vet vaccinates dogs for everything, every year.") is worth the price of the book.

SPEAKING FOR SPOT
By Dr. Nancy Kay. Available in bookstores and from DogWise,
(800) 776-2665; dogwise.com

This fetch toy is simplicity itself, which is probably why Otto likes it so much. Except for its garish color, it looks like a stick, throws like a stick, and floats on water like a stick. But it's made of pure rubber (yay! no phthalates!), so it won't break your dog's teeth or clonk him on the head when he makes an exuberant but clumsy catch. Its maker, RuffDawg, includes the very responsible warning that The Stick is not a chew toy, and should be taken away from the dog at the end of a fetch session, as it shouldn't be chewed or ingested.



Premier's Spill-Less Smart Bowl isn't spill-proof, like one of our past "Gear of the Year" choices.

But *this* product doesn't need to be wrestled apart – it's just one piece. That makes it much easier to keep clean. It's perfect for dogs who usually flick water out of their bowls when they drink; its innovative rim redirects water (or food!) back into the bowl.

SPILL-LESS SMART BOWL
Premier Pet Products, LLC
Midlothian, VA
(800) 933-4702
premierpet.com



What's the big deal? It's a Kong; we've promoted Kongs forever! Ah! But *this* new Kong contains a squeaker! And it's much more difficult to get out and "kill" than your average squeak-filled toy, which means many more hours of chewing enjoyment for your dog.

KONG SQUEAKER
Kong Company
Golden, CO
(303) 216-2626
kongcompany.com



THE STICK
RuffDawg
Worcester, MA
(800) 772-3726
ruffdawg.com

Yes, We Can!

We have confidence in wet foods, despite the 2007 recalls.

BY NANCY KERNS

We like canned food for dogs. It's more expensive than dry, but good varieties of canned food are arguably healthier than comparable dry foods, due to the higher inclusion of animal proteins and the higher moisture levels. Both of these things are closer to the dog's evolutionary diet than dry diets that contain a lot of grain.

Some dog owners stopped buying wet dog food following the spring 2007 recalls of foods that contained melamine and/or cyanuric acid. Given the fear and lack of information in the early days of the recall, this made sense. Now, however, we know more about the factors that led to the recalls, and we feel more certain than ever that wet foods offer health benefits to many

dogs – and that our recommendations for choosing wet dog foods can help owners identify the safest, healthiest products available.

Benefits

Wet foods offer your dog a few advantages over kibble:

- At levels of 70 to 80 percent moisture, canned foods are beneficial to dogs with kidney ailments.
- All that moisture can help a dog who is on a diet feel full faster – as long as you choose low-fat products. (Most wet foods are higher in fat than their kibbled counterparts.) High-moisture foods are also much healthier for dogs with kidney problems.
- Preservatives are not added to canned or “pouched” foods. Their oxygen-free packaging helps them retain their nutrient value longer – two years or more. Artificial colors and chemical palatants are also rarely used in wet foods.
- High-quality wet foods contain far more animal protein (the dog's evolutionary diet staple) than dry foods (which contain a high proportion of grains and other non-meat ingredients). More of the amino acids required by dogs are naturally supplied by animal proteins than plant-sourced proteins.
- Many dogs digest high-quality wet foods with fewer problems (such as gas, vomiting, and diarrhea) than dry foods.

These are some of the best canned dog foods we've found. Plus, their makers share info with dog owners – what a concept!



■ Wet foods with a high meat content are generally highly palatable, which helps when feeding thin, sick, or picky dogs.

WDJ's selection criteria

How do we determine whether a wet food is a high-quality product? First, we look at the label. Not the front! Not the pictures, colors, cute names, or pretty logos! We look at the *ingredients list* for the following:

■ We look for foods with whole meat, fish, or poultry as the *first* ingredient. This means that by weight, there is more of this ingredient than anything else in the food. Wet foods are generally around 78 percent to 82 percent moisture.

There are *some* good wet foods with water (or broth) first on the list, but since fresh meat is so high in moisture, most top-notch foods list an animal protein (fresh meat) first on the list, and water or broth (required for processing) in the second or third position. The point is to look for products that contain as much meat as possible. There has been a resurgence of popularity of wet foods that contain nothing but meat, water, and a vitamin/mineral supplement; many of these are labelled with a “95% meat” claim. And yes, they are complete, balanced diets. (Remember; dogs have *no* dietary requirement for carbohydrates!)

■ If grains or vegetables are used, we look for the use of *whole* grains and vegetables, rather than processed fragments. This means we prefer foods that contain “rice” rather than “rice flour, rice bran, brewer’s rice,” etc. Also, if grains are used in a wet product, we sure don’t want to see a lot of them! Even a product with an animal protein first on its ingredients list may contain more grain than meat if it has several grains or grain “fragments” on the label, too.

■ We reject foods containing fat or protein not identified by species. “Animal fat” and “meat proteins” are euphemisms for low-quality, low-priced mixed ingredients of uncertain origin.

■ We reject any food containing meat by-products or poultry by-products. There is a wide variation in the quality and type of by-products that are available to pet food producers. And there is no way for the average dog owner (or anyone else) to find out, beyond a shadow of a doubt, whether

the by-products used are carefully handled, chilled, and used fresh within a day or two of slaughter (as some companies have told us), or the cheapest, lowest-quality material found on the market.

There is some, but *much* less variation in the quality of whole-meat products; they are too expensive to be handled carelessly.

■ We eliminate any food containing sugar or other sweetener. Again, a food that contains quality meats shouldn’t need additional palatants to entice dogs.

■ We eliminate foods containing artificial colors, flavors, or added preservatives. Fortunately, these are rare in wet foods!

Other ingredients

Some ominous-sounding chemicals in a dog food turn out to be a source of a particular vitamin or mineral. Generally, all the vitamins and minerals on a good label are grouped together at the end of the ingredients list.

Wet foods sometimes contain some sort of thickener or binder. Various types of “gum” (such as guar gum, from the seed of the guar plant, and carrageenan gum, from seaweed) are common thickeners. Whole grains, potatoes, and sweet potatoes also can be used to thicken wet food. Sometimes a carb fragment serves a dual role as a thickener or binder and a low-cost source of protein; think wheat gluten. Ahem.

What about products that contain a long, long list of vegetables and herbs and nutraceuticals? They make a food sound *so* appealing! Just keep in mind that the more of all this stuff there is in a food, the less room there is for meat – the main reason to feed a wet food, and the main thing your *dog* will find delicious.

Other criteria

In 2007, we required pet food companies to disclose to us their manufacturers, for publication, in order to have their qualifying dry dog food products appear on our “top foods” lists. This is the first time we’ve asked them to disclose the makers of their *wet* foods – which was asking a lot, in the aftermath of the wet food recalls of spring 2007.

The last time we asked for this information, a few companies whose products had been on our “top foods” lists for years took exception. Only one was openly hostile! A couple had reasonable explanations for why

What you can do . . .

■ Buy products from companies that are easy to reach, and who have knowledgeable, helpful people who readily address your questions and concerns.

■ Look for wet products that contain mostly meat. If the ingredient list is long, or grains appear high and/or often on the list of ingredients, ask the maker what percentage of the food is meat.

■ If grains and other ingredients are present in the food, look for whole, minimally processed sources – rice, rather than rice flour, for example.



they made it a policy to not disclose this information. (We discuss these in “Why We Want Disclosure; Why Some Won’t Disclose,” on the next page.) A few others simply did not respond to our requests for information. We suspect that some simply didn’t care enough to be included in our reviews to bother responding.

If you don’t see one of your favorite wet dog foods on our current list of “top wet foods” (which starts on page 8), don’t assume anything. Look for their toll-free number on the label of your dog’s food; is it there? Or not? Call them up. Did a human answer – or at least call you back within a day? If you reach a human, ask him or her a few questions about the company’s manufacturers, its ingredients, and its quality control program. This interaction (or lack thereof) will tell you a *lot* about the company’s commitment to quality.

Our list of “top foods”

Starting on page 8 is our “top wet foods” list for 2009. These are all products that have met our selection criteria and answered our query about their manufacturers. There are *certainly* more products that both meet our criteria, as described above, and whose makers are willing to answer questions about their manufacturers. Rest assured that any food that you find that meets our selection criteria is just as good as any of the foods on our list.

What if it doesn't meet our selection criteria? It's up to you. If you have been feeding it to your dog, and she looks and feels like a million bucks, we'd be the last ones to tell you to switch. If she has allergies, chronic diarrhea, recurrent ear infections, or a poor coat, we'd recommend that you check out something from our list. An improvement in the quality of his food could (and probably will) work wonders.

We've listed the foods alphabetically, by the name of their manufacturer. If you are looking for California Natural or Evo, then, you have to look under Natura Pet Products, their maker.

Some companies (like Natura) make several lines of food. We've listed each line and each variety that we found that meets our selection criteria. We've also highlighted *one* variety from each com-

pany as a representative product, to show what sort of ingredients and macro-nutrient levels (protein, fat, fiber, and moisture) are typically found in that maker's foods. Be aware that some companies offer dozens of different products with varying nutrient levels and ingredients. Check the company's website or call its toll-free phone number to get information about its other varieties.

Why We Want Disclosure; Why Some Companies Won't Disclose

It took courage for dog food companies to disclose their canned food manufacturers in order to be considered for this review, especially those produced at canneries implicated in the recalls of 2007. A certain percentage of consumers won't ever suspend their doubts about products made in those canneries; some dog owners tried to rally others into boycotting all products that were made at plants that made recalled products, and/or all products sold by companies that recalled any of its products.

A decade ago, it was unheard of for pet food companies to divulge the manufacturers of their products. Some company leaders still think there is no advantage for their companies to release this information to the public.

It's true that knowing the maker of the food doesn't tell us anything in and of itself. But the willingness of the company to disclose this information, we've found, is a good indicator of the company's willingness or ability to give its consumers in-depth information about its products. We're interested in top-quality foods; our readers want the best, safest, highest-quality foods available and they are willing to pay top dollar for them. We feel best when giving our dogs food that comes from companies that readily disclose everything about their products that be helpful for us to know. Also, as we saw two years ago, in a crisis, being able to quickly get accurate information from company representatives may save a dog's life.

We *strongly* recommend buying products from companies whose contact information is readily available on their product packaging and websites, and whose phones are answered by people who are knowledgeable about the companies' products. We have little confidence in companies whose contact information is difficult to find (like those without phone numbers on their labels or websites), whose phones are answered only by answering machines, and who don't return calls.

Will answer anything but the maker!

A few companies take a sort of middle ground, where they are easy to reach, have knowledgeable people on the phone, will talk to any consumer at length about the origin of their ingredients and how they exert quality control on their co-packers – but will *not* disclose their manufacturing location.

A decade ago, literally all the dog food companies we asked told us it was a matter of competitive advantage to keep their makers secret – “proprietary information.” This drove us mad as we learned that most of the companies already knew where all of their competitor's products were made, and vice versa.

However, there are a *few* pet food companies with good

foods whose principals have informed us that they will tell us (or any consumer) anything we want to know – except their manufacturer. And in just these few cases, we're inclined to believe them.

For example, the principals at Azmira Holistic Animal Care of Tucson, Arizona, explained to us last year that their products are made in a really terrific human food manufacturing facility – that, in fact, their products are the only pet food made in that facility. They are thrilled with the service they receive at this facility. But they are also worried sick that a bigger pet food maker could swoop in and sign a contract with the co-packer that would essentially fill up the co-packer's production capacity, bumping Azmira's smaller runs off of the schedule. They worry about this because it happened at the *last* place they made their food, and they don't want it to happen again.

Given that the folks at Azmira readily disclose all sorts of other technical information about their formulas, ingredients, quality control processes, and testing, we'd feel quite confident buying Azmira's foods. Still, to be fair, we're not listing them, since they didn't actually meet all of our criteria.

Interestingly, most of the other companies whose products meet all of our *other* selection criteria (but don't want to disclose their manufacturers) use foreign manufacturers. These include Addiction Foods (based in New Zealand), Petropics (based in Chino Hills, California), and Weruva (based in Natick, Massachusetts). The latter two will say only that their products are made in Thailand.

Christine Hackett, president of Petropics, explains, “We contract with a cannery that works only with locally sourced, natural, human-grade foods out of Thailand. Our competitors are hyper-aware of our presence and consumer loyalty amongst the savvy ultra-holistic buyers. We offer a revolutionary, niche food and must protect our investment and brand in order to remain competitive. But we are happy to provide ingredient details, including the percentage of each ingredient.”

“We are very fortunate to have our manufacturing partner in Thailand,” says David Forman, president and co-founder of Weruva. “The facility operates with a high level of quality control, and we enjoy an exclusive and special relationship with its owners and managers. We won't disclose this location, but we will, however, provide detailed information about our quality control measures, our certifications, the sourcing of our ingredients, as well as other aspects of production.” A *few* of Weruva's products *are* made in the US at a plant that they will disclose, however, and *those* products are on our list.

Some companies also offer foods that are not “complete and balanced,” but are intended for “supplemental or intermittent use” only. We’ve listed some of these products, too, but only for use as described – not as a sole source of your dog’s food.

Rather than try to list *all* the ingredients in each food we highlight, we’ve listed the first six ingredients. Why six? No specific reason, other than that six ingredients gets

you through the major contributors to the food, and gives you a good idea of what it mostly consists.

Remember, quality comes with a price. These foods may be expensive and can be difficult to find, depending on your location. Contact the company and ask about purchasing options. Some companies sell directly to consumers, or recommend mail-order outlets that will ship products.

Using the selection criteria we have outlined above, go analyze the food you are currently feeding your dog. If it doesn’t measure up, we encourage you to choose a new food based on quality, as well as what works best for you and your dog in terms of types of ingredients, levels of protein and fat, local availability, and price.

Our list of Approved “Top Wet Dog Foods” begins on the next page.

Lessons Learned From the Recall; How Some Dodged the Problem

Although it seemed to panicky owners who had fed wet food to their dogs and cats that *most* wet foods were recalled or suspected of problems in spring 2007, the truth is that most wet pet foods were not recalled. Even the canneries that produced recalled products produced many, many products that were not recalled. That’s because the canneries involved produce the majority of private label canned pet food in North America.

Many of the best products (in our estimation) were safe by virtue of the quality of their ingredients. After all, the problems were traced to adulterated, cheap ingredients of dubious provenance. Most companies whose products contained only the best (generally most expensive), whole, unprocessed ingredients – the kind we have recommended for more than a decade – had no recalled products.

There were a *few* exceptions. Some companies who sell high-quality foods had recalled products due to adulterated rice gluten, an ingredient that is neither inexpensive nor commonly found in low-cost foods. Nevertheless, it’s a processed ingredient; it’s easier to tamper with processed ingredients than with whole ingredients. (That’s not why we recommend foods with whole ingredients, but it supports that recommendation.)

A few other companies had recalled products due to contamination from foods that were processed on equipment that had previously made foods with the contaminated ingredients, without a cleanout between production runs. We’ve heard these cleanouts are now routinely included in contracts between third-party manufacturers and pet food companies – that is, the companies who hadn’t previously had the foresight (or leverage, or deep enough pocketbooks) to insist on this provision.

Finally, there were some pet food companies with recalled products whose managers claimed to be unaware that an ingredient substitution had been made to their formulas by their contract manufacturers, allowing for the inclusion of an ingredient that was not on their label. The manufacturer in this case claimed that the companies could have known and should have known (with the tacit implication that perhaps they *did* know) about the substitution. Dog owners were the losers in this dispute; we’ll never know where the fault truly lay.

The explanation that “We didn’t know what our co-packer was doing!” wasn’t adequate, and shouldn’t be excused, no matter which party was at fault. Manufacturers should protect themselves by requiring clients to sign “batch sheets” acknowledging their approval of the contents of each batch of food; pet food companies should protect themselves (and our dogs!) through vigilance and oversight of their co-packers.

Models of oversight

Wellness and Natura are two of the largest makers of high-end pet foods. Neither had any of its products recalled, despite the fact that each had canned products manufactured at Menu plants. How did they dodge the problem?

First, both companies pride themselves on forging excruciatingly thorough contracts with their co-packers, insisting on a high degree of oversight of and frequent visits to the co-packing plants. Significantly, both companies also take a lead role in sourcing their own ingredients; they don’t allow their co-packers to “shop for” and utilize the least expensive ingredients for their foods.

“The foundation of our supplier relationships rests on continuous quality improvement practices,” says Greg Kean, vice president of research/development and co-manufacturing for Wellness. “For instance, we have joined forces with our suppliers to administer raw material audits. This process not only identifies potential issues in the supply chain, but it also creates a basis for open communications about ingredient integrity and quality between our teams.”

Peter Atkins, formerly president and now chief executive officer of Natura Pet Products, has explained to us how even before the recall, Natura employed industry-leading quality management programs and had critical product safety procedures in place. However, he says, “the recall did cause us to put more emphasis on enhancing communications with our customers and knocking down transparency barriers by implementing consumer informational initiatives about our ingredients, suppliers, manufacturing practices, and quality and safety management plans – all of which ultimately helped to relieve customer concerns.”

Natura makes its own dry foods – only its canned products are made by a co-packer – so the company has deep experience in sourcing quality ingredients. After the recall, however, the company took their ingredient quality assurance processes several steps further. “We also felt it critical that our high standards for quality and safety were being met by ‘suppliers to our suppliers’ and took this opportunity to increase our diligence by elevating and accelerating supplier food safety programs,” explains Atkins. “This included the development of ‘source validation’ protocols which takes our strict ingredient quality and purity requirements and applies them through the supply chain all the way to the original source of each component of our premixes and any brokered ingredient that may be used in Natura pet food formulations.”

WDJ'S TOP WET FOODS OF 2009

ARTEMIS PET FOODS North Hollywood, CA (800) 282-5876; artemiscompany.com	MADE BY Evanger's Dog & Cat Food Co., Wheeling, IL	LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Artemis Fresh Mix Beef; Chicken; Lamb formulas.
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Beef formula contains: Beef, beef broth, beef liver, ocean fish, oat bran, carrots . . . 9% protein; 5% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,870 kcal/kg as fed.		
COMPANY STATEMENT – When it comes to producing the best canine/feline can food, there is really no hidden secret. Because a healthy pet begins with nutrition, we have created a food that balances all the necessary proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, resulting in a food that is greater than the sum of its parts. Our can foods were developed with the idea that prevention is the best cure and thus we have insured this by incorporating fresh meats, chelated vitamins, chelated minerals, and fresh vegetables to truly meet all the nutritional requirements. Our can products have also never been part of any type of recalls.		

BEOWOLF NATURAL FEEDS Syracuse, NY (800) 219-2558; beowulfs.com	MADE BY Evanger's Dog & Cat Food Co., Wheeling, IL
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Back to Basics Perfection Chicken; Pork; Salmon formulas.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Chicken formula contains: Chicken, chicken broth, chicken liver, carrots, peas, potatoes . . . 8% protein; 6% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 839 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – New Back to Basics Perfection Entrées Grain-Free canned food for dogs and cats. Our new Perfection entrées are the perfect companion to our kibble line. Perfection is made with 100% human grade ingredients that are 100% domestically sourced and produced. Back to Basics Perfection Entrees smell like <i>real</i> food because they <i>are</i> real food! Filled with chunks of vegetables and wholesome goodness, they are a wonderful addition to any pet's diet. Highly palatable, pets <i>love</i> the taste and smell of Perfection!	

BY NATURE , a division of Blue Seal Feeds, Inc. Londonderry, NH (800) 367-2730 bynaturepetfoods.com	MADE BY By Nature Organics are made by Evanger's Dog & Cat Food Co., Wheeling, IL. By Nature Naturals are made by Menu Foods, Pennsauken, NJ
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – By Nature Organics formulas are 100% Organic Chicken and 100% Organic Turkey (both for supplemental feeding); Organic Chicken, Carrots & Peas; and Organic Turkey, Sweet Potato & Peas. By Nature Naturals formulas are 95% Beef; 95% Beef, Chicken & Liver; 95% Chicken; 95% Turkey & Bacon.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – By Nature Naturals 95% Beef contains: Beef, beef broth, beef liver, tricalcium phosphate (a calcium supplement), guar gum (a thickener), cassia gum (a thickener) . . . 10% protein; 8% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 988 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – By Nature pet foods are formulated using the latest developments in pet nutrition. We carefully formulate our products knowing that balancing nutrients is just as important as quantity. Our products contain no by-products or artificial preservatives. We demand that the manufacturer of our products follow strict procedures to ensure our products meet our customer's highest expectations. Strict requirements have been developed for suppliers that provide ingredients to make our products. Ingredients must pass numerous standards upon arrival at our manufacturing facilities and must meet all specifications before they are chosen to make our products. This series of standards and tests include, but are not limited to, checks for nutrient quality and screening for contaminants. Our customer service department is always ready to answer any questions.	



BREEDER'S CHOICE PET FOODS Irwindale, CA (800) 255-4286; breeders-choice.com	MADE BY American Nutrition Inc., Ogden, UT
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – AvoDerm Natural formulas are Chicken & Rice Puppy; Chicken & Rice Adult; Lamb & Rice Adult; Vegetarian Adult; Lite Adult; Original (lamb, chicken and rice). Advanced Pet Diets Select Choice formulas are Chicken & Rice Puppy; Chicken & Rice Adult; Chicken & Rice Lite; Lamb & Rice Skin & Coat; Lamb & Rice Renew Skin & Coat. Pinnacle Holistic formulas are Chicken & Vegetable; Trout & Sweet Potato; Duck & Potato.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Pinnacle Chicken & Vegetable contains: Chicken, chicken broth, chicken liver, oat bran, potatoes, carrots . . . 7% protein; 6% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,385 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Many of the nutrients your pet needs can be found in avocados, which contain vitamins A, C, and E in abundance. They're also an excellent source of balanced nutrients for your pet's skin and coat health. We created AvoDerm Natural formulas with California avocados for your pet's healthy skin and coat – and to keep him healthy on the inside! Pinnacle's holistic approach focuses on preventing disease, for which complete, sound nutrition – absent allergens or poor ingredients – is essential. Natural foods, carefully chosen and meticulously cooked, are the basis of the Pinnacle concept. Our precise preparation and packaging of nature's best sources of protein, carbohydrates, and fats ensures the full value of our fine ingredients remains intact for your pet's benefit. The vitamins, minerals, and probiotics found in Pinnacle foods come from natural sources, blended and balanced for complete nutrition.	

CANIDAE CORP. San Luis Obispo, CA (800) 398-1600 canidae.com	MADE BY Evanger's Dog & Cat Food Co., Wheeling, IL, and Simmons Pet Foods, Siloam Springs, AK
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Canidae All Life Stages formulas are Chicken, Lamb & Fish; Lamb & Rice; Chicken & Rice. Canidae Platinum formula is intended for senior and overweight dogs.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Canidae Chicken, Lamb & Fish contains: Chicken, chicken broth, lamb, chicken liver, herring, brown rice . . . 9% protein; 6% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,240 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Founded out of love for all pets, Canidae manufactures a complete line of premium, meat based, all natural pet foods and gourmet treats. Canidae Pet Foods are carefully formulated to provide the finest in wholesome, healthy nutrition, along with essential vitamins and minerals. Our canned products are made using the finest, natural ingredients, grown and raised in the USA and manufactured with strict quality control procedures. Additional can formulas include Chicken & Rice, Lamb & Rice Canidae Platinum for senior and overweight dogs. All products are made the Canidae way with <i>no</i> corn, wheat, soy, or fillers and are naturally preserved. Canidae is committed to providing the highest standard of excellence for nutritional benefit, palatability, product safety, and customer satisfaction. We understand the level of trust that our customers have come to expect from us, and our products. It is our responsibility and commitment to deliver on that trust.	

CANINE CAVIAR PET FOODS Costa Mesa, CA (800) 392-7898; caninecaviar.com	MADE BY Performance Pet Products, Mitchell, SD
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Canine Caviar formulas are Duck & Sweet Potato; Turkey; Beaver; and Venison Tripe. All of these foods are supplemental feeding – not complete and balanced diets.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Duck & Sweet Potato contains: Duck, sweet potatoes, water, carrageenan gum (a thickener), cassia gum (a thickener). 9% protein; 10% fat; 3% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,600 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Canine Caviar uses eco-friendly alternative proteins like venison tripe and beaver along with traditional proteins such as duck and turkey. We use US ingredients in all of our diets with the exception of our lamb and venison, which come from New Zealand and Australia and are certified scrappie-free. In 2007 we implemented our Active Management to Manufacturing Policy (AMMP) for safe ingredients, safe manufacturing, and finished product testing. Samples of every batch are tested in house and by third party companies to validate that products conform to specifications and formulas. Any product that does not meet our strict performance requirements will not be sold. Our AMMP exceeds FDA standards for canned pet food. Our canned single-protein foods are grain free, great as a raw food replacement, and excellent for protein rotation in any diet. We use pop tops on our cans for easy usage.	

DIAMOND PET PRODUCTS Meta, MO (800) 658-0624 chickensoupforthepetloverssoul.com	MADE BY American Nutrition Inc., Ogden, UT
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul formulas are Puppy, Adult, and Senior.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul Adult formula contains: Chicken, turkey, chicken broth, duck, salmon, chicken liver . . . 8% protein; 4% fat; 1% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,139 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul brand canned pet foods provide the same great nutrition available in our dry formulas, but in a canned version. There are three great formulas available for dogs: Puppy, Adult Dog and Senior Dog. All formulas are made with chicken, turkey, duck and salmon for unsurpassed flavor and optimal protein nutrition. The cooking process of these excellent foods begins with the chicken in broth, just like homemade chicken soup but on a larger scale. The dog formulas have visible chunks of chicken, whole grains of rice, peas, and chunks of carrots. Because cats prefer a smoother texture, all of the great ingredients are blended smooth. Quality control procedures meet the highest industry standards, ensuring that your pets eat only the best! Visit www.chickensoupforthepetloverssoul.com for more information.	



DOGSWELL, LLC Los Angeles, CA (888) 559-8833; dogswell.com	MADE BY Menu Foods, Emporia, KS	LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Dogswell “Happy Hips” formulas are: Chicken & Sweet Potato Stew; Duck & Sweet Potato Stew; Lamb & Sweet Potato Stew (these all contain natural sources of glucosamine and chondroitin for a total of 380 mg/kg of glucosamine hydrochloride and 220 mg/kg of chondroitin sulfate). Dogswell “Vitality” formulas are: Chicken & Sweet Potato Stew; Duck & Sweet Potato Stew; Lamb & Sweet Potato Stew.
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Vitality Lamb & Sweet Potato formula contains: Water, lamb, lamb liver, beef, beef liver, dried egg product . . . 8% protein; 4% fat; 1% fiber; 82% moisture. 1,014 kcal/kg as fed.		
COMPANY STATEMENT – Dogswell canned food is the natural, healthy, and functional well-rounded diet that dogs need and deserve. As an added benefit, it comes in two unique formulas that add function to a dog's diet. Happy Hips contains natural sources of glucosamine and chondroitin to help maintain healthy hips and joints, and Vitality contains flaxseed and vitamins to maintain healthy eyes, skin and coat. Dogswell canned food is a complete and balanced meal packed with antioxidants, super fruits, and Omega 3s and 6s, and is available in Sweet Potato Stew Recipes with cage-free chicken, duck, or New Zealand lamb. In addition to being free of grains and gluten, the canned food recipes contain <i>no</i> added hormones, rendered meats/poultry, soy, corn, rice, wheat, BHT/BHA, ethoxyquin, artificial colors, flavors, or preservatives.		

CASTOR & POLLUX PET WORKS Clackamas, OR (800) 875-7518; castorpolluxpet.c	MADE BY Menu Foods, Emporia, KS
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Organix Organic formulas are Organic Turkey, Brown Rice & Chicken With Vegetables; and Organic Turkey, Carrots & Potatoes. Natural Ultramix formulas are Lamb, Chicken, and Beef.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Organix Organic Turkey, Brown Rice & Chicken With Vegetables formula contains: Organic turkey, chicken broth, organic brown rice, organic chicken, organic chicken liver, organic potatoes . . . 7.5% protein; 6% fat; 1% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,285 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – There are no independent regulatory bodies policing the claims of “natural,” “holistic,” or even “human grade.” In contrast, Organix is subject to the very rigorous requirements of the USDA's National Organic Program. Each and every ingredient in Organix must be reviewed and approved by Oregon Tilth, an organic certifying agency. All finished products are tested by an independent laboratory for melamine and cyanuric acid, salmonella, and other toxins <i>before</i> they are released for sale. This is in addition to inbound ingredient testing. Organix features a high meat content of organic, free range chicken and turkey with organic vegetables, organic brown rice and other premium organic ingredients to provide a complete and balanced diet plus outstanding taste and digestibility. Castor & Pollux oversees quality control related to all aspects of product creation, including establishing ingredient specifications, testing inbound ingredients, attending production runs, inspecting facilities, and pulling/retaining samples throughout the production runs.	

DICK VAN PATTEN'S NATURAL BALANCE Pacoima, CA (800) 829-4493; naturalbalance.net	MADE BY American Nutrition Inc., Ogden, UT
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Natural Balance Ultra Premium formulas are Chicken; Liver; Beef; and Lamb. Natural Balance Limited Ingredient Diets (LID) formulas are Potato & Duck; Sweet Potato & Fish; and Sweet Potato & Venison.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Beef formula contains: Beef, beef broth, beef liver, carrots, oat bran, brown rice . . . 8% protein; 5% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,155 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance canned dog formulas are used and respected worldwide by top trainers, breeders, veterinarians, kennels, and caring pet owners who want the best for their animals. The ultra premium canned formulas include beef, chicken, liver, and lamb. Every formula has its own unique combination of quality meats (no by-products) and other fine ingredients that provide the optimum nutrition for your dog or puppy. The L.I.D. Limited Ingredient Diets canned formulas include Duck & Potato, Venison & Sweet Potato, and Fish & Sweet Potato, which are all proven grain-free formulas based on a unique blend of a premium protein and carbohydrate. Natural Balance is the only pet food manufacturer that tests every batch of food for toxins so you know your pet food is safe to feed. The “Buy With Confidence” program allows you to check the actual testing results of your pet food at www.naturalbalance.net .	

DRS. FOSTER & SMITH Rhineland, WI (800) 826-7206; drsfostersmith.com	MADE BY Menu Foods, Pennsauken, NJ	LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Drs. Foster & Smith Adult Dog formulas are Chicken & Brown Rice; Lamb & Brown Rice; and Fish & Potato. Drs. Foster & Smith Country Classic Dinners formulas are Hearty Beef Stew and Roasted Turkey & Chicken Stew.
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Drs. Foster & Smith Adult Dog Chicken & Brown Rice formula contains: Chicken, chicken liver, chicken broth, brown rice, herring, carrots . . . 10% protein; 7% fat; 1% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,217 kcal/kg as fed.		
COMPANY STATEMENT – Doctors Foster and Smith canned dog food is formulated by our veterinarians with your dog’s best health in mind. Our foods meet or exceed AAFCO standards, with high quality sources of nutrients carefully selected and included in the proper proportions for optimal nutrition. Our foods contain no wheat gluten, and no artificial preservatives, colors or flavors. Real salmon, chicken, turkey, lamb and beef provide essential amino acids for strong muscles. Brown rice and oats provide complex carbohydrates for energy, and fiber important for healthy digestion. Apples, sweet potatoes, and carrots provide vitamins, minerals, and antioxidant nutrients to support a healthy immune system. Sunflower oil, flaxseed and salmon are natural sources of omega fatty acids for supple skin and a shiny coat. We’re here to answer your questions; please call or e-mail us and our knowledgeable staff will be happy to help you.		

EAGLE PACK PET PRODUCTS, INC. Mishawaka, IN (800) 255-5959; eaglepack.com	MADE BY Menu Foods, Emporia, KS
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Eagle Pack Holistic Select formulas are Duck & Oatmeal; Duck & Chicken; Tuna, Salmon & Shrimp; Chicken & Oat Bran (Puppy); Beef; Chicken; Lamb; Liver, Chicken & Rice (this one is for supplemental feeding).	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Beef formula contains: Beef, beef broth, beef liver, ocean fish, oat bran, carrots . . . 9% protein; 5% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,024 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Pet health and nutrition are at the heart of why we go to work each day. We develop natural foods that combine the fundamentals of good nutrition with ingredients that holistically deliver superior results. We focus on the selection of quality natural ingredients and manage quality throughout the production process. Our Holistic Select canned dog food line features human grade ingredients including high quality protein sources such as chicken, duck, lamb and tuna, along with delicious fruits and vegetables that serve as natural sources of antioxidants, phytonutrients, vitamins and minerals. Whole health nutrition is further enhanced with marigold extract, yucca as an arthritic aid, kelp to enhance pigment, and flax for healthy coats. Ingredients are combined according to our holistically developed formulas, with quality control remaining a top priority from sourcing to completed product.	

FROMM FAMILY FOODS Mequon, WI (800) 325-6331; frommfamily.com	MADE BY Performance Pet Products, Mitchell, SD
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Fromm Four-Star Nutritionals formulas are Chicken Thighs (includes bone); Shredded Duck; Beef; Tuna, Pork Tenderloin; Salmon.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Chicken Thighs formula contains: Chicken (on the bone), chicken broth, carrots, peas, potatoes, potato starch . . . 9% protein; 4% fat; 1.5% fiber; 80% moisture. 1,223 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Made in the United States, Fromm Four-Star cans utilize only the finest quality US-sourced ingredients prepared in small batches. To ensure the safety of your pet we do not ship in any ingredients from overseas and our food is prepared at a FDA/USDA inspected plant. Our canned food production follows the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), a systematic preventive approach to food safety. Since 1904, the Fromm Family has maintained a tradition of quiet innovation dedicated to the health and nutrition of animals. In the 1930s, The Fromm Family introduced the first canine distemper vaccine. In 1949, we introduced the concept of premium pet food to the public. As the country’s first and oldest premium pet food company, we have earned the reputation as an industry leader, producing only the highest grade pet foods with the finest natural ingredients.	



EVANGER’S DOG & CAT FOOD CO. Wheeling, IL (800) 288-6796; evangersdogfood.com	MADE BY Evanger’s Dog & Cat Food Co., Wheeling, IL
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Evanger’s Super Premium Gold Dinners formulas are Cooked Chicken; Beef with Chicken; Vegetarian; Duck & Sweet Potato; Beef Dinner with Chunks; Cooked Chicken Dinner with Chunks; Turkey Chunk Stew; Lamb & Rice. Evanger’s Hand Packed Specialties formulas are: Roasted Chicken Drumette Dinner (contains bone); Braised Beef Chunks with Gravy; Whole Mackerel with Gravy; Chunky Chicken Casserole; Whole Chicken Thighs (contains bone); and Hunk of Beef (last two are for supplemental feeding). Evanger’s Game Meats formulas are Beef; Rabbit; Duck; Pheasant; Chicken, Buffalo, and Venison (all are for supplemental feeding). Evanger’s 100% Meat Classic formulas are: Beef with Chicken & Liver; Beef; Beef with Liver; Beef with Chicken; Beef & Bacon (all are for supplemental feeding). Evanger’s Complete Classic Dinners formulas are: Lamb & Rice; Chicken & Rice; Senior; Puppy.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Evanger’s Chunky Chicken Casserole formula contains: Chicken, chicken broth, carrots, peas, apples, pasta . . . 8% protein; 4% fat; 1.5% fiber; 82% moisture. 1,451 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – One of the country’s oldest natural pet food makers, we pride ourselves on manufacturing our own products. The owners of Evanger’s personally oversee the total quality control of raw materials and processing. In fact, we’re the only pet food company that hand-packs every single can of food and does not use a mass mixture. With this method, we can guarantee freshness, safety, and higher quality product in each can. Our products consist of fresh, natural, and superior ingredients, with no additives, preservatives, artificial colors, by-products, or salt. We not use any soy, corn, or wheat products in our foods, which makes them popular among pets with allergies and diabetes. Many Evanger’s products are organic and kosher certified. We purchase 95 percent of our ingredients locally, including produce from the same distributor as top five-star Chicago restaurants.	

LIFE4K9 PET FOOD CORP. Dawsonville, GA (888) 543-3459; life4k9.com	MADE BY Evanger’s Dog & Cat Food Co., Wheeling, IL
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Life 4K9 formulas are Chicken & Barley; Lamb & Barley.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Chicken & Barley formula contains: Chicken, chicken broth, barley, sweet potato, peas, sunflower oil . . . 8% protein; 4% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 908 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Our human grade chicken is always fresh and never frozen. Lamb & Barley formula uses human grade lamb. Whole peas and whole barley added to make a great loaf in a can. We added barley for great nutrition and excellent source of needed vitamins and nutrients for diabetic dogs. Our sweet potatoes are fresh and whole and ground at cooking. Extra vitamins added for superior nutrition. Add this food to LIFE4K9 Oven- Baked for a great path to proper nutrition. Made in US by Evangers. Watch for all new Puppy, Salmon, Trout, and Senior Formulas.	

MERRICK PET CARE Amarillo, TX (800) 664-7387 merrickpetcare.com	MADE BY Merrick Pet Care, Hereford, TX	LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Formulas are Harvest Moon; Campfire Trout Feast; Cowboy Cookout; Grammy’s Pot Pie; Puppy Plate; Thanksgiving Day Dinner; Turducken; Wingaling (includes chicken on the bone); Brauts-n-Tots; French Country Cafe; Mediterranean Banquet; New Zealand Summer; Senior Medley; Smothered Comfort; Venison Holiday Stew; Wild Buffalo Grill; Wilderness Blend; Working Dog Stew.
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Merrick’s Working Dog Stew formula contains: Beef tripe, beef broth, beef liver, beef, sweeto potatoes, carrots . . . 8% protein; 5% fat; 1% fiber; 81% moisture. 1,034 kcal/kg as fed.		
COMPANY STATEMENT – Merrick Pet Care is a family owned company that makes its own products in Hereford, Texas. Merrick is the only brand dedicated exclusively to the independent pet specialty channel that runs its own can, dry, and treat plants. Garth Merrick grew his company from a small metal shed on the windy high plains of Texas to three manufacturing compounds located on over 200 acres. As the Merrick company has grown, Garth’s primary goal has been to stay true to the high level of quality and craftsmanship that he started with over 40 years ago. Today, 400 modern day artisans manufacture Merrick products with a unique blend of old world craftsmanship and modern technology. Attention to quality is paramount. All inbound raw materials and finished goods receive stringent on site testing and review. Additionally, Merrick uses meat from USDA inspected sources to achieve protein levels – never any gluters or protein concentrates.		

NATURA PET PRODUCTS Santa Clara, CA (800) 532-7261; naturapet.com	MADE BY Menu Foods, Emporia, KS
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – California Natural’s formulas are: Lamb & Brown Rice; Chicken & Brown Rice; Salmon & Sweet Potato. Evo’s formulas are: Evo; Evo 95% Beef; Evo 95% Chicken & Turkey; Evo 95% Duck; Evo 95% Rabbit; Evo 95% Venison. Innova’s formulas are: Innova Adult; Innova Lower Fat Adult; Innova Senior; Innova Puppy; Innova Large Breed Adult; Innova Large Breed Senior.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Evo formula contains: Turkey, chicken, turkey broth, chicken broth, chicken meal, herring . . . 12% protein; 8% fat; 0.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,283 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Natura Pet Products canned pet foods are manufactured by Menu Foods at its Emporia, KS facility. Natural nutrition, ingredient selection, product design, quality, and food safety are essential tenets of all Natura products. Natura, together with Menu Foods, developed and follows a robust quality management program which fully mirrors the quality programs Natura employs in its own manufacturing plants. A “positive release protocol” that includes confirmation of quality and production data, including proof of full compliance with analytical guarantees and organoleptic standards, are key components of the program. Every production lot is approved by Natura prior to final release. Natura’s “quality team” conducts monthly quality and food safety audits of Menu’s facility to assure Natura’s strict quality standards are met. Natura was the first in the industry to test and guarantee all its products are free of melamine and cyanuric acid.	

NATURAL PET NUTRITION Boulder, CO (800) 416-4700; petpromiseinc.com	MADE BY Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, Crete, NE, on a line solely devoted to Pet Promise products.
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Pet Promise formulas are: Chicken & Brown Rice; Beef & Brown Rice; Bison & Brown Rice.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Bison & Brown Rice formula contains: Bison, bison broth, chicken, bison liver, brown rice, potatoes . . . 8.5% protein; 5% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,058 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – Pet Promise is the only brand that promises all natural U.S.-raised beef and poultry, and all wild-caught fish across our entire line. Our commitment to environmental practices involves sourcing all of our meat and poultry protein from U.S. farmers and ranchers dedicated to eco-friendly practices and a humane treatment of animals and who guarantee their meat and poultry are raised without the use of added hormones and antibiotics. Our ingredients always meet our stringent standards of purity and we never use factory farmed meat or chicken. Pure protein is always our #1 ingredient. In addition, Pet Promise is made with <i>no</i> animal byproducts, <i>no</i> rendered meat or chicken meals, <i>no</i> factory farm meat or chicken, <i>no</i> antibiotic fed protein sources, and <i>no</i> added growth hormones. Pet Promise has a complete line of great-tasting natural foods for both dogs and cats. For more information, go to petpromiseinc.com.	

NATURE’S VARIETY Lincoln, NE (888) 519-7387; naturesvariety.com	MADE BY Menu Foods, Emporia, KS
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Nature’s Variety Instinct Grain-Free formulas are: Chicken; Beef; Lamb; Rabbit; Duck; Venison. (All of these are 95% meat and liver.) Nature’s Variety Homestyle formulas are: Chicken Stew; Lamb Stew; Beef Stew; Salmon & Wild Rice Stew; Turkey & Duck Stew; Beef & Bison Stew; Pork & Sweet Potato Stew. Nature’s Variety Prairie formulas are: Chicken; Beef; Lamb, Venison.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Prairie Beef formula contains: Beef, beef liver, beef broth, barley, eggs, peas . . . 7% protein; 5% fat; 3% fiber; 75% moisture. 1,319 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – At Nature’s Variety, our passion is the health, happiness, and longevity of your special dog and cat. Our team is committed to providing proper, holistic nutrition made from only the finest ingredients. In order to make our proprietary and innovative diets, we partner with high quality manufacturers that share our passion for safety and ingredient integrity. Ed O’Neill leads our “quality assurance” team in developing and enforcing our quality control standards – including ingredient specifications, sourcing certifications, testing, and product safety. On-site inspections and continuous monitoring insure our products meet our rigorous Nature’s Variety standards. We are proud to offer a variety of nutritious choices for dogs and cats; visit naturesvariety.com to learn more about us.	

PETCUREAN PET NUTRITION Chilliwack, British Columbia (866) 864-6112; petcurean.com	MADE BY Menu Foods, Pennsauken, NJ and Streetsville, Ontario
LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Go! Natural formulas are: Chicken & Vegetables; Salmon & Vegetables; Grain-Free Chicken/Turkey/Duck; Grain-Free Freshwater Trout.	
REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Grain-Free Chicken/Turkey/Duck formula contains: Chicken, turkey, chicken broth, chicken liver, turkey liver, turkey broth . . . 12% protein; 8% fat; 0.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,360 kcal/kg as fed.	
COMPANY STATEMENT – We are a privately held company, with formulations developed by nutritionists, complete nutrient profiles are available. None of our canned foods have been involved in any recall. Before and after production NIR (Near Infra Red) Technology is used to measure fat, protein, moisture and ash. Ingredient testing is done on site, and includes, but is not limited to, aflatoxins, mycotoxins, and melamine. Raw materials must meet with detailed quality and nutritional specifications, and any new supplier must first undergo a third party audit and thorough QA qualification process before the new ingredient will be accepted. Ingredients are grown in North America. Raw ingredient bins are dedicated to just one particular ingredient. These bins are cleaned between batches. Finished products are kept in a separate location from raw ingredients. Independent auditing is done by NSF-Cook & Thurber, EFSIS (European Food Safety Inspection Service) the American Institute of Baking and Petcurean.	

PETON DISTRIBUTORS

Langhorne, PA
(800) 738-8258; performatrinultra.com

MADE BY Menu Foods in
Emporia, KS;

LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Performatrin Ultra formulas are: Lamb & Wild Rice; Chicken & Wild Rice; Beef & Wild Rice; Turkey & Wild Rice; Venison & Wild Rice.

REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Performatrin Ultra Chicken & Wild Rice formula contains: Chicken bouillon, chicken, chicken liver, wild rice, potatoes, egg white . . . 8% protein; 4% fat; 1% fiber; 82% moisture. 863 kcal/kg as fed.

COMPANY STATEMENT – Performatrin Ultra canned dog foods encompass a holistic approach to pet nutrition, emphasizing whole food ingredients, optimal Omega 6:3 fatty acid ratios, and natural source antioxidants in addition to balanced nutrition. Each of the five stew varieties is made from a simple, bouillon-based recipe with chunks of meat (chicken, turkey, lamb, beef, or venison), whole wild rice, peas, carrots, red pepper, potatoes, and herbs – so visually appealing and appetizing, we call them “home cooking in a can.” To round out the holistic nutrition they provide, fruits, flaxseed, sunflower oil, prebiotics, and chelated minerals are included. For these innovative formulas, our nutritionists work closely with manufacturer Menu Foods insisting on only high quality ingredients, locally-grown where feasible (Australia/New Zealand lamb). Menu is European Food Safety Inspection Service certified, audited by the American Institute of Baking and other third-parties and under the regulatory scrutiny of FDA, USDA, and CFIA.

VERUS PET FOODS, INC.

Abingdon, MD
(888) 828-3787; veruspetfoods.com

MADE BY Merrick Pet
Care, Hereford, TX

LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – VeRus formulas are: Lamb & Rice; Fish & Potato; Chicken & Rice; Beef & Barley; Duck & Potato; Garden Selection (liver & vegetables); Turkey & Veggie.

REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Beef & Barley formula contains: Beef, beef broth, barley, brown rice, calcium phosphate (calcium supplement), garlic . . . 8% protein; 5% fat; 2% fiber; 74% moisture. 1,309 kcal/kg as fed.

COMPANY STATEMENT – We use only the highest quality chicken, turkey, beef, lamb, and fish in our formulas. The vegetables, potatoes, and grains are all fresh grown. All of our ingredients are sourced in the United States and none of the Verus products or any products produced at the plant were involved in pet food recall. Food quality starts with healthy clean American ingredients, balanced to provide optimum nutrition. Proper manufacturing insures great taste and consistency. Our commitment to your pet is number one. We back our foods with a 100% satisfaction guarantee. All Verus can formulas are complete and balanced for all stages of a dog’s life. They can be fed mixed with our dry foods or exclusively. As with all Verus products, Verus cans contain no chemical preservatives. For more information visit us at veruspetfoods.com.

WERUVA INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Natick, MA
(800) 776-5262; weruva.com

MADE BY Evanger’s Dog & Cat Food
Co., Wheeling, IL (“Human Style”
formulas made at an undisclosed
location in Thailand)

LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Weruva Kobe and Kurobuta (grain-free) formulas are: Kobe Master; Kobe Yume; Kobe Gyro; Kurobuta Pagoda; Kurobuta Hero. Weruva also makes a dozen “**Human Style**” formulas at an undisclosed location in Thailand.

REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Kurobuta Pagoda formula contains: Organic turkey, organic turkey broth, Kurobuta Berkshire ham, guar gum (thickener), vitamin/mineral supplement. 8% protein; 5% fat; 1.5% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,202 kcal/kg as fed.

Company statement – At Weruva, we enjoy a deeply rooted familial relationship with our manufacturing partner that earned an “A” on the strictest human food standard in the world, the BRC of the UK. Our formulas are produced under HACCP plans and GMP, and the facility is frequently inspected by international governmental bodies and independent third parties on human food standards. In an industry that utilizes the term “human grade” haphazardly, we process our foods per international human food standards and utilize precisely the same ingredients that are used in products for people, such as antibiotic- and hormone-free, free-range chicken breast and hand-flaked loins of dolphin-safe wild-caught fish. Our ingredients are entirely traceable to the source, and our suppliers operate under similar human food scrutiny. As our ingredients are hand-placed into cans, pet owners can visually appreciate the quality. “What you see is what you get!”

SOLID GOLD HEALTH PRODUCTS FOR PETS, INC.

El Cajon, CA
(800) 364-4863; solidgoldhealth.com

MADE BY Simmons Pet
Foods, Siloam Springs,
AK

LINES/TYPES AVAILABLE – Solid Gold formulas are: Chicken & Liver; Green Cow Tripe; Lamb & Barley; Turkey & Ocean Fish.

REPRESENTATIVE VARIETY – Lamb & Barley formula contains: Lamb, lamb broth, lamb liver, brown rice, carrots, barley . . . 9% protein; 5% fat; 1% fiber; 78% moisture. 1,429 kcal/kg as fed.

COMPANY STATEMENT – Solid Gold Health Products for Pets, Inc has been dedicated to producing the finest pet foods for over three decades. Our canned dog foods are proudly manufactured in the United States using 100% domestic ingredients. Solid Gold canned dog foods contain only the best raw ingredients including fresh meats, whole grains, vegetables, and healthy oils, which are carefully selected for the health benefits they offer. Our comprehensive quality control program ensures that each and every can of Solid Gold contains only the best for your pet.

WELLNESS NATURAL FOODS & TREATS FOR PETS

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Homemade Low-Fat Diets

Five owners describe their special-needs dogs' diets.

BY MARY STRAUS

There are many health conditions that are best controlled with a low-fat diet, especially hyperlipidemia (high levels of triglycerides in the blood, even after fasting for at least 12 hours), which can lead to pancreatitis. Other conditions that may respond favorably to a low-fat diet include chronic pancreatitis, EPI (exocrine pancreatic insufficiency), IBD (inflammatory bowel disease), and lymphangiectasia. In some cases, owners may choose to reduce dietary fat as a preventive measure for dogs who may be predisposed to pancreatitis, including those with diabetes or Cushing's disease, or who are given anti-seizure drugs.

In "Healthy Low-Fat Diets" (December



After Spenser suffered a serious attack of pancreatitis in 2007, his owner found she had to research and build a palatable low-fat diet without much guidance from her vet. "Many vets are lost when prescription foods don't work," she says.

What you can do . . .

- Feed a low-fat diet if your dog has hyperlipidemia or digestive problems that improve when fed lower-fat foods.
- Experiment with different types of diets, including dehydrated, refrigerated, and frozen commercial diets, if your dog doesn't do well on kibble or canned foods.
- Don't be afraid to feed a homemade diet, either raw or cooked, as long as you use appropriate ingredients and proportions.
- Use a commercial pre-mix to make feeding fresh foods easier, without worry about calcium and balance.



2008), we described how to calculate the amount of fat in various foods, and offered guidelines for preparing a homemade low-fat diet. This month, owners who feed their dogs home-prepared low-fat meals will share their diet plans with us.

Simple diet following acute pancreatitis

Spenser is a six-year-old Cardigan Welsh Corgi with a history of digestive problems. His owner is Diana Thompson of Fulton, California. Following Spenser's attack of acute pancreatitis last December, Thompson's veterinarian tried feeding Spenser Hill's prescription canned i/d, but Spenser would not even try the food, and the vet didn't know what else to offer him. Here is Thompson's account of what she found worked for her dog:

While Spenser was hospitalized, with my vet's approval, I offered him homemade dilute chicken broth, followed by slushy steamed potatoes mixed with a broth made from lean ground sirloin beef. Next I gave

him some low-fat yogurt, then bits of boiled chicken breast. I fed him a couple of tablespoons of food several times a day.

Once Spenser came home from the hospital, he ate five or six small meals a day. Meals consisted of slushy potatoes, boiled chicken breast, and yogurt, a little less than ½ of a cup at a time. I also offered him ½ cup of diluted homemade chicken broth (25 percent broth, 75 percent water) every hour, as he wouldn't drink plain water. The broth was made from the water I used to boil his chicken breast, with fat skimmed off.

I continued to feed small, frequent meals for the next few weeks, slowly increasing the size and decreasing the number of meals, until he was eating three meals a day. Five weeks after the attack, his blood tests were back to normal.

Today, Spenser continues to get three meals a day (even prior to the pancreatitis, he did better with more than two meals a day). For breakfast, I usually feed him 1 cup (4 oz) of cooked rice mixed with ½ cup (2 oz) ground round beef, cooked

in a skillet. About one meal in five I will either substitute baked potato with skin removed for the rice, or combine rice or potato with two small scrambled eggs (2¼ oz) in place of the beef.

For dinner, Spenser usually eats two raw, skinless chicken necks (3 oz). If we are out of these, I'll give him the same mixture he gets for breakfast. At bedtime, he gets a half meal consisting of ½ cup rice or potato with ¼ cup cooked ground beef or one scrambled egg.

Spenser gets slices of raw carrots to chew, and a small beef marrow bone once every couple of weeks. He also mooches from my husband's plate, getting small amounts of just about anything that is not high in fat. I use Liver Biscotti and a few tiny kibbles of dry cat food for training rewards.

Spenser's coat and energy are great on this diet, and he's back to his normal

weight of 30 pounds. I think feeding a simple, home-cooked diet with only a few ingredients at a time helps him stay healthy. If his stools become loose, I know that potato helps to firm them up. Now that he's been healthy for a year, I'm planning on reintroducing The Honest Kitchen's Verve soon to give him more variety.

Mary Straus comments on this diet:

At first glance, this diet looks like it might be high in fat due to the chicken necks and eggs, but both are fed in small amounts so that all of Spenser's breakfast and dinner meals have a similar amount of fat, ranging from 6 to 8 grams of fat per meal. The overall diet is 25 percent meat and eggs, 25 percent raw meaty bones, and 50 percent carbs, and averages out to 32 grams of fat per 1,000 kcal (GFK).

I agree that adding more variety would be an improvement, particularly since

Spenser is not getting any organ meat, nor a good multi-vitamin and mineral supplement. Note that there's no need to add calcium to this diet, because it's provided by the raw chicken necks that include bone.

A cooked diet for a dog with EPI

Marilyn Wilson of the northern Adirondack Mountains of New York has a seven-year-old German Shepherd Dog, Annie, who was diagnosed with EPI (exocrine pancreatic insufficiency) two years ago. Wilson feeds a home-cooked diet that works well for Annie, though many dogs with EPI do not do well with fiber or grains. Following is Wilson's description of what she feeds Annie per meal, twice a day:

I start with ½ pound of cooked meat, rotating between chicken, pork, beef, venison,

The Importance of a Balanced Array of Fats

Steve Brown is the creator of See Spot Live Longer Homemade Dinner Mixes, and co-author of *See Spot Live Longer*. (Brown was also the creator of Steve's Real Food for Dogs, though he is no longer associated with the company.) Brown gave me a sneak preview of his upcoming book, *The ABC Way to Healthier and Happier Dogs*. This fascinating book focuses on the various forms of fats and how a proper balance between them is needed for optimal health.

Brown's book includes information for both veterinarians and dog owners. He offers guidelines on what he calls an "ABC Day" for those who feed commercial foods to give their dogs just one day a week to improve the balance of fats in the diet. He also gives detailed instructions for how to balance the fats in various homemade recipes, both cooked and raw.

For example, meat from poultry is high in linoleic acid (an essential omega-6 fatty acid), while meat from ruminants, such as beef, lamb, and venison, is high in saturated fats and low in linoleic acid. Too much or too little linoleic acid can lead to skin problems that may be diagnosed as a food allergy, but are really caused by fat imbalance. Rotating poultry and ruminant meals daily or weekly helps to balance the fats. If only one type of meat is fed due to food allergies or intolerance, or if variety is limited because of cost or difficulty accessing other types of meat, it's more important to balance the fats by adding other ingredients.

I asked Brown if he could modify his balanced fat guidelines for dogs who need a low-fat diet, and he responded with four recipes, all of which meet or exceed AAFCO recommendations for adult dog maintenance (puppies and females that are pregnant or nursing have different requirements).

"These recipes start with very lean meats, and then we add specific fats to ensure an excellent fat balance," says Brown.. "Domesticated feed animals do not have a healthy balance of fats, unlike wild prey animals."

You may be surprised to see salt in some of the recipes, but iodized salt supplies iodine that is sparse and unreliable in most foods. Kelp is another good source of iodine, though the amount it contains can vary considerably.

Recipe #1: Chicken (no bones)

14 oz chicken thighs, skin and separable fat removed
1 lb sweet potato, baked in skin
½ lb broccoli stalks
2 oz chicken liver
1 oz chicken heart (or use 3 oz of liver and no heart)
1 level tsp eggshell powder
¼ tsp iodized salt
40 to 120 IUs (2 to 6 drops) vitamin E

This recipe yields 1,007 kcal (31 kcal/oz) and has 22 grams of fat per 1,000 kcal. Omega 6:Omega 3 ratio is 7:1.

Recipe #2: Beef

12 oz ground beef, 95% lean
12 oz white rice, cooked
6 oz red leaf lettuce
1 oz beef liver
1 oz beef heart
1½ tsp bone meal
¾ tsp hemp oil (or substitute ¾ tsp walnut oil or 1½ tsp canola oil)
¼ tsp cod liver oil
¼ tsp kelp
20 to 100 IUs (1 to 5 drops) vitamin E

This recipe yields 1,015 kcal (24 kcal/oz) and has 24 grams of fat per 1,000 kcal. Omega 6:Omega 3 ratio is 4:1.

rabbit, turkey, and fish (canned salmon, jack mackerel, and sardines packed in water). I've recently begun using chicken and beef heart along with muscle meat. I usually feed one protein for a week, then switch to another, with canned fish fed once a week. I grind the cooked meat in a food processor for easier digestibility because of Annie's EPI.

I add ¾ cup of starchy carbohydrates, rotating between brown rice, sweet potato, quinoa, spelt, and whole-grain pasta. I overcook the grains for better digestibility. Sweet potatoes are baked and fed with the skins. I also include ⅛ cup of fresh, raw veggies, herbs, and fruits, such as celery, spinach, parsley, cilantro, carrots, green beans, other dark leafy greens, and berries. These are pureed in a food processor. Occasionally I include nuts (such as walnuts, but never macadamias, which are poisonous to dogs), or canned clams or oysters.

Recipe #3: Mixed

3 lbs whole wheat macaroni, cooked
2 lbs chicken thighs, skin and separable fat removed
1 lb ground beef, 95% lean
1 lb broccoli stalks
1 lb red leaf lettuce
½ lb chicken liver
½ lb beef heart
1 can (3½ oz) sardines
egg white from 1 large egg
4 tsp eggshell powder (or 6,000 mg calcium from other sources)
1 tsp kelp meal
200+ IUs (10+ drops) vitamin E

This recipe yields 4,206 kcal (28 kcal/oz) and has 24 grams of fat per 1,000 kcal. Omega 6:Omega 3 ratio is 5:1.

Recipe #4: Chicken with bones (raw)

6 oz chicken necks, skin and separable fat removed
½ lb chicken thighs, skin and separable fat removed
1 lb sweet potato, baked in skin
½ lb broccoli stalks
3 oz chicken liver
¼ tsp iodized salt
40 to 100 IUs (2 to 5 drops) itamin E

This recipe yields 995 kcal (24 kcal/oz) and has 24 grams of fat per 1,000 kcal. Omega 6:Omega 3 ratio is 7:1.

Preparation of these recipes

The meat without bones can be fed either cooked or raw (meat with bone must always be fed raw). Green vegetables should be either lightly cooked or pureed in a food processor, juicer,

I add 1 teaspoon of oil, rotating among fish oil, olive oil, safflower oil, and butter, with the emphasis on fish oil.

I feed about half a pound of raw, organ-



Seven-year-old Annie looks terrific now, but she weighed 20 pounds less when first diagnosed with EPI. Annie's owner enjoys cooking for her dogs now that she has learned how to streamline the shopping, preparation, and storage.

ic liver a week, spread out over multiple meals, as too much at one time leads to loose stools. Annie doesn't do well with eggs or cottage cheese, so I leave those out of her diet, but I often add some plain, low-fat yogurt to meals. I also give her appropriate human leftovers.

Each meal is mixed with a cup of warm, filtered water, along with Annie's prescription digestive enzymes.

I use bone meal for calcium, and give a human multi-vitamin and mineral supplement. I also give cod liver oil that provides 130 IU vitamin D twice a day during the winter when there is little sunshine.

Once a day, I add 1 tsp psyllium for fiber, human probiotics, and a sublingual (under her tongue) vitamin B12, as dogs with EPI have trouble absorbing this vitamin from their intestines. Annie was dealing with SIBO (small intestinal bacterial overgrowth, which is common in dogs

or blender. Starchy carbs should always be cooked.

Amounts

A moderately active 50-pound dog will consume around 1,000 kcal daily. A 25-pound dog will need a little more than half as much (around 600 kcal), and a 100-pound dog a little less than twice as much (around 1,700 kcal). Really tiny dogs require more energy for their weight; a 5-pound dog will need around

175 kcal daily. The amount to feed will vary considerably depending your dog's activity level and metabolism.

Substitutions

Brown says, "I use chicken thigh meat instead of breast meat because thigh meats are higher in the long chain omega-3s. That's why, for the chicken recipe, I don't need to add a specific DHA source. Breast meat cannot be substituted for the thigh meat in these recipes without upsetting the fat balance." With chicken thighs and necks, remove the skin and separable fat, but don't remove the fat within the muscle, which is high in omega-3s.

Beef heart can be substituted for lean ground beef, which is fine as far as fats are concerned, but the recipe would then be low in zinc. It would be okay to use beef heart one day a week, but if fed more often than that, a zinc supplement should be added.

Almost any **green vegetables** can be substituted for the ones listed.

Any form of **calcium** can be substituted for eggshell powder at the rate of 1,500 mg calcium per level tsp of eggshell powder. You can also interchange bone meal and eggshell, but you need to use more bone meal than eggshell because of the phosphorus in bone meal. Substitute 1½ to 2 tsp bone meal (6 to 8 grams) per 1 tsp of eggshell powder, and vice versa.

with EPI) for a long time, and using these supplements helped her to recover.

I cook food once every two weeks. I remove the separable fat from all meat, and skin from chicken, then boil the meat. I'll cook a 40-lb case of chicken breasts in batches, using the same water each time. I put that water in the refrigerator overnight, then skim the fat off and use the liquid to cook the grains and pasta. I also bake sweet potatoes in large batches, buying 40-lb crates when they are on sale. I freeze the cooked meat in meal-sized portions, and the carbs in gallon-sized freezer bags.

I watch for sales and stock up on foods when I can. I sometimes buy whole shoulders and rump roasts. These come cryopacked, easy to freeze until I have time to defrost and cook them. When the hunting season starts, I ask hunters for any leftover venison from last year.

I make training treats out of beef liver, boiling thin slices for ten minutes, then cutting into tiny pieces and microwaving for 10 minutes or drying in the oven for an hour at 150° F. I refrigerate a week's worth and freeze the rest. I do Annie's training right after she eats so she will still have the digestive enzymes in her system.

Both of my dogs look gorgeous and have great energy on this diet. Annie weighs around 70 pounds now, up from 50 pounds when she was at her worst. When I first started home cooking I was overwhelmed, but I actually enjoy cooking for my dogs now that I have the process streamlined.

Mary's comments:

This diet has lots of variety and good proportions of meat and carbohydrates. When using bone meal, give an amount that provides 1,000 to 1,200 mg calcium per pound of food.



Miniature Schnauzer with hyperlipidemia

Keely, a five-year-old Miniature Schnauzer, is owned by Gail Roper, of Tucson, Arizona. A year ago, Keely's right eye turned white. Her ophthalmologist diagnosed her with corneal fat deposits due to hyperlipidemia, which is common in Miniature Schnauzers, and advised putting Keely on a low-fat diet. Within a month, the deposits were gone. Here is Roper's report of what she feeds her dog now:

Keely is an agility dog who weighs 19 pounds. She gets a lot of her food during training, so her meals are small. For training, I use chicken breast and London broil (both cooked), and non-fat feta cheese, which she loves. I boil the beef, then cut it up into quarter-inch squares and freeze it. I've had trouble finding heart, but my grocery store said they could order it for me, so I will be using that as well.

Breakfast foods include non-fat yogurt and cottage cheese, hard-boiled eggs, sardines, 93 percent lean turkey bacon (microwaved), and chicken wingettes with as much skin removed as possible. She gets ½ of a strip of bacon once or twice a week, one sardine twice a week, ½ hard-boiled egg three times a week, a tablespoon of cottage cheese and yogurt three times a week, and chicken wingettes once a week.

Dinner foods include skinless chicken breast, 93 percent lean ground turkey, salmon, and just a little bit of liver three days a week. I boil the chicken and liver, but feed the turkey raw. The salmon is left over from our meals once a week. I make 1-lb packages by mixing 9 to 10 ounces of raw turkey with 5 to 6 ounces of cooked and shredded chicken, plus a little yogurt to help with the mixing, then add ½ tsp ground eggshell per pound of meat for calcium. I add an ounce or two of liver to every other package. I then freeze each package in quart-sized freezer bags, which lasts my two dogs a couple of days. I add warm water at mealtime to make a stew.

Daily supplements include 1,000 mg fish oil, 200 IU vitamin E, 1,000 mg vitamin C, and Animal Essentials' Multi-Vitamin Herbal Supplement. Three times a week I

Keely is an active agility dog. She requires a low-fat diet to prevent ill effects of hyperlipidemia, which is common in Miniature Schnauzers.

give a vitamin B-50 complex, and twice a week she gets 30 mg CoQ10. I hide some supplements in her food, but use a little bit of canned food for the rest.

Treats are EVO grain-free dog treats, Merrick's dried beef lung, and homemade chicken, beef, and turkey jerky. To make jerky, I boil the meat, then cut it into thin strips and bake on a cookie sheet at 250° F until dehydrated. For recreation, I give Keely raw beef bones with marrow removed.

Mary's comments:

Even a diet without carbs can be relatively low in fat, if you're careful about what foods you use. The dinner meal has about 36 grams of fat per 1,000 kcal.

Raw diet following acute pancreatitis

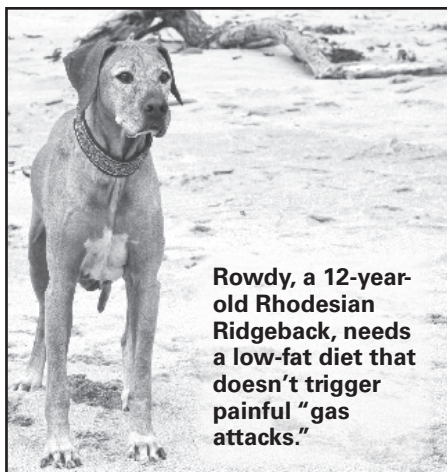
Rowdy is a Rhodesian Ridgeback who was hospitalized with acute pancreatitis for 10 days at age 12. His owner, Jerri Langlais of Brentwood, California, was afraid to return Rowdy to a raw diet after almost losing him. Instead, she fed him Royal Canin canned low-fat prescription food.

Rowdy was troubled by borborygmi (loud intestinal rumbling noises) after eating this food and seemed uncomfortable, switching positions frequently. After three weeks, he started rejecting the prescription diet, even with added fat-free organic chicken broth or low-fat cottage cheese. Langlais decided to switch back to a home-made diet, hoping it would help Rowdy return to normal. Here is her story:

I started with grilled skinless chicken breasts, combining half a breast with a cup of white rice that was cooked with lots of extra water and fat-free, low-sodium chicken broth. When he did well with that, I began feeding him Verve from The Honest Kitchen for one meal a day, then ½ cup green tripe every other day.

Next, I added beef heart, then beef kidney, and then raw chicken breast to his diet. I rotated between white rice, quinoa, and oatmeal, feeding these as half his diet. I then began feeding the chicken breast raw, with the bone, and giving one chicken wing. Each time I started something new, I would wait at least three days, watching for any signs of discomfort, before making any further changes.

Rowdy's stomach noises and discomfort after eating gradually diminished, especially after I began feeding raw food. I



Rowdy, a 12-year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback, needs a low-fat diet that doesn't trigger painful "gas attacks."

gave him slippery elm tincture and chamomile tincture when this happened, which quieted them down within 10 minutes. Adding Primal Defense soil-based probiotics also really seemed to help.

Two months after his pancreatitis attack, Rowdy had emergency surgery for gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV, also known as bloat). Fortunately, it was caught in time and the surgery was successful. The good news was that the surgeon said Rowdy's pancreas looked normal. I fed him chicken soup, using chicken breasts boiled with white rice and grated vegetables, for five days following surgery, but he was able to resume his regular diet once his incision healed.

Rowdy dropped from 82 to 71 pounds after his stay at the hospital, and he looked emaciated. He had difficulty gaining weight until I began feeding him 5 to 6 ounces of raw pancreas every day. I had tried giving digestive enzymes with pancreatin, but they made him gassy. As soon as I added the pancreas, his energy level increased markedly and he started gaining weight and strength. It took about four months for him to return to his normal weight.

Rowdy's current diet consists of a large meal in the morning, usually around ¾ lb raw meaty bones. He does best with raw turkey necks. I also feed whole chicken parts with skin and fat removed, or Verve from The Honest Kitchen.

His evening meal is smaller so that he gets a total of about a pound of food a day. I rotate among green tripe, raw pancreas (once a week), beef kidney, and I'm starting to try ground beef. I no longer feed lamb, which is high in fat. Beef heart makes his stools loose if I feed too much, so I just give a small piece with his meal. Raw liver also gives him loose stool, so I feed small amounts of cooked liver as treats. If

he acts hungry in the afternoon, I give him ¼ cup of nonfat yogurt. I use commercial dog cookies that are 5 percent fat.

For supplements, he gets wild salmon oil, probiotics, and algae/spirulina. Rowdy's energy level improved dramatically when I began adding salmon oil. He gets one tablespoon three times a week, though I started with just ½ teaspoon and increased gradually once I saw that it wasn't causing him any problems. I was alternating salmon oil with 1 tablespoon of coconut oil, but I've discontinued the coconut oil now that he's back to his normal weight.

Rowdy turned 13 years old in October, and is doing really well. No more stomach sounds at all, and he plays more regularly now. The longer he is on raw, the better he seems to feel.

Mary's comments:

There's no reason that dogs can't return to a raw diet after recovering from acute pancreatitis, as long as you're careful not to feed too much fat. Most raw meaty bones are high in fat, though turkey necks have less than any other kind. Rowdy's diet is high in bone, but that's what works best for him.

A mixed diet for a dog who wouldn't eat

Rocky is a 3½-year-old Yorkie-Poodle mix who has had digestive problems all of his life. From puppyhood, he was a picky eater and had frequent diarrhea. His owner, Danielle Flood, who lives in Crofton, Maryland, tried feeding all kinds of foods, but nothing seemed to work, and within a few days, he would stop eating again.

One of the vets Flood consulted believes that Rocky has both IBD and chronic pancreatitis, and suggested feeding a home-cooked diet, but Rocky wasn't interested in a mixture of chicken and rice. Rocky was down to 13 pounds of skin and bones when Flood, desperate to find a food that Rocky would eat and that wouldn't make him sick, came across the dehydrated foods made by The Honest Kitchen. Flood's first success was with Preference, its low-fat incomplete mix meant to be combined with meat and other fresh foods:

I mixed just under ¼ cup of Preference with hot

water and added half of a boiled chicken breast. To my surprise Rocky devoured his entire plate and for the first time was begging for more food! Better yet, he didn't start refusing the food after a few days, as he has with everything else we've tried.

A few weeks later, Rocky is still happily eating Preference mixed with chicken. We have also tried cooked chicken livers and very lean beef sirloin, and he loves those as well. He likes it best when there is a little more meat than mix.

We continue to give Rocky ¼ tsp acidophilus with each meal. He also gets a multi-vitamin and mineral supplement.

Treat options are very limited for Rocky, but he does very well with "chicken breast wraps" made by Free Range Dog Chews, which we cut into tiny pieces. With our vet's approval, we have also started giving him tiny pieces of lean raw meat (beef sirloin), which I was shocked to find he loves.

This is the longest I have ever been able to get Rocky to eat consistently. He is so excited at meal times, which is a first, actually diving into his plate to eat, and finishing completely on his own instead of my having to coax him.

We have discontinued giving Pepcid, as he no longer has an upset tummy. His stools are now normal, which they have never been before. He has gained weight, over a pound in the first two weeks, and is now up to 16 pounds and looks wonderful. Our vet, my husband, and I are delighted and relieved to see Rocky healthy, happy, eating, playing, and in no pain.

Mary's comments:

This is a good example of perseverance paying off. There are many different types of foods available; if kibble and canned don't work for your dog, try something else. Pre-mixes are a great way to feed fresh foods, without having to worry about balancing a home-made diet. 🐾

See Resources, page 24, for information about products mentioned in this article.



Rocky is finally a good eater!

Mary Straus does research on canine health and nutrition topics as an avocation. She is the owner of the DogAware.com website. She lives in the Bay Area with her 17-year-old dog, Piglet.

Gimme Shelter

Making sense of the confusing world of animal sheltering.

BY PAT MILLER

Say the words “animal shelter” to 10 different people and you’re likely to get 10 different reactions – from a warm, happy smile to sadness and tears to anger. Why the disparity? Because shelters take the “no two alike” approach to service providing, and those 10 people likely had 10 very different shelter experiences. When you’ve had one experience with a shelter, good or bad, you might think all shelters are the same. You couldn’t be more wrong.

Many people think that shelters must all come under some national governing body that regulates what they do, a universal “mother club” like Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. In fact, the exact opposite is true – with a few rare exceptions, every shelter is its own entity, complete within itself, with its own policies and procedures, its own governing body, and its own list of services offered – or not offered.

With a sole exception, national groups like the Humane Society of the United

States (HSUS), the American Humane Association (AHA), United Animal Nations (UAN), and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) do little to dispel the confusion. None of these organizations has anything to do with the management of shelters around the country; they are primarily *educational* organizations, offering training, materials, and conferences at a price to local shelters, and issue-based information to the public. (The exception? The ASPCA does have a single shelter, in New York City.)

Some of these organizations have offices around the United States and sometimes the world; many are heavily involved in lawmaking, sometimes pursuing legislation whether local agencies support it or not. The organizations have no direct role in how shelters across the country are structured or run.

All of these groups offer paid memberships. Well-meaning animal lovers often join and support these national organiza-

tions, believing that donation dollars sent to those groups somehow find their way back to help animals in shelters in their own communities. They may be dumbfounded to discover that this is rarely the case. Oh, once in a great while, during a disaster or a high-profile cruelty case perhaps, but not to assist with the day-to-day costs of feeding and caring for sheltered animals. Rarely a penny.

Types of shelters

Although every shelter is unique, you can group them into similar types according to how they are structured:

■ **Municipal shelter:** This type of shelter is owned and run by your government – city, county, township, parish – and is completely supported by tax dollars. It usually has a name like “Chattanooga Animal Services,” “San Francisco Animal Care and Control,” or “Multnomah County Animal Control.”



Many dog lovers are reluctant to visit their local animal shelters, to protect themselves from getting upset about all the needy animals. But the animals are there and will appreciate your help, whether you see them or not.

What you can do . . .

- Investigate your local shelters to determine their organizational structure, and identify what services they offer.
- Visit the shelters to determine the quality of service they offer and animal care they provide.
- Support and help the shelters that deserve your patronage.
- Take steps to improve the ones where human and non-human clients receive less-than-optimal care.



The shelter is part of the municipal “animal control” program, charged with protecting citizens from animals. They are usually responsible for enforcing city or county laws and regulations regarding animals; they may also investigate cases of animal cruelty, and sometimes offer education programs. Their enforcement staff may be called “animal control officers,” “animal services officers,” “dog wardens,” or some other such regulatory-sounding name.

“Animal Control” may be its own department in local government, or can function under the umbrella of the police department, department of public works, health department, department of parks and recreation, or some other division. Priority of services often depends on what department oversees its work. If it falls under the health department’s control, a high priority is placed on “rabies control” efforts; if it is under the control of the police department, enforcement of animal control laws may take center stage.

If you travel up the organizational tree you eventually reach a board of supervisors, a mayor, or whatever office is at the top of your particular governmental hierarchy.

■ **Full-service private nonprofit shelter:**

As the name implies, this is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization with a Board of Directors and by-laws that govern the mission and policies of the group. Its mission is to protect *animals* from *people*, which often includes a strong educational component. When applying for nonprofit status, in most states these agencies are incorporated for the “prevention of cruelty to animals.” They may have members, and members may or may not have voting privileges.

These groups have names like “Marin Humane Society,” “Houston SPCA,” “Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society,” “Denver Dumb Friends League.” Same type of organization – different names. Just to emphasize the point, understand that “SPCAs” across the country have *no* affiliation with the ASPCA.

Full-service shelters, also called “open door” shelters, usually accept most if not all animals that owners bring to them, and may (or may not) also accept stray animals of all kinds. These shelters usually keep animals as long as they can. They have active adoption, education, and spay/neuter programs, and strive for low euthanasia

Services Offered

There is a wide variety of services that may be offered by your local shelter, depending on their mission and vision as well as available resources. We provide a partial list below. If you see services on the list that you’d like your local shelter to provide, talk to your shelter’s administrators about the possibility. Be prepared to help find ways to fund the program(s) if funding isn’t already readily available!

- Housing of unwanted/homeless animals
- Rescuing animals in distress – trapped in chimneys or trees; victims of natural disasters; fallen off cliffs . . .
- Animal cruelty investigations
- Animal “nuisance” complaints
- In-house adoption program
- Adoption outreach programs
- Post-adoption follow-up and counseling
- Volunteer programs
- Education programs
- Spay/neuter assistance programs for animals belonging to the public
- Spay/neuter clinic
- Well-pet assistance – subsidizing routine preventative care such as vaccinations, worming, etc.
- Veterinary care assistance
- Low-fee/affordable veterinary clinic
- Low-cost vaccinations, microchips, tattooing
- Off-leash dog park
- Special events
- Food bank/pet meals on wheels
- Companion animal training and behavior modification programs
- Animal-assisted therapy
- Reading programs (children reading to pets)
- Prison dog programs
- Euthanasia services

rates, but can’t always succeed.

While the most diligent of these may be able to achieve a sometimes tenuous “low-kill” status, by choosing to accept *all* animals that are brought to them, most are compelled to regularly euthanize animals for a number of reasons. These reasons may include poor health or behavior, and space (at least some of the time, if not on a daily basis).

Full-service nonprofit shelters may also be involved in humane investigations, rescues, and cruelty case prosecutions. Cruelty enforcement workers are often given titles such as “humane officer” or “cruelty investigator.”

At the top of the nonprofit organizational chart is the president of the board, chair of the board, or other such title.

■ **Full-service nonprofit shelter with animal control contract:** Some full-service shelters contract with local community governments to perform the function of animal control alongside

their humane society mission. Under this arrangement, the shelter is still governed by its board of directors, but must respond to the contracting government over issues related to the contracted services.

The contract may be only to house stray animals for a municipal animal control agency, or it may be to perform field enforcement services as well as sheltering. Law enforcement services involve issues such as animals running at large, barking, and other “nuisance” complaints, enforcement of licensing and “sanitation” (pooper scooper) laws, etc.

Nonprofit shelters sometimes take on government contracts for financial reasons; some rely on government dollars to survive. Others contract with a local government agency for humanitarian reasons, in the belief that a nonprofit shelter can do a better job of caring for the animals.

Some have dual motivations: they need financial support from local government *and* believe they can do a better job than government. But because the two

missions can conflict – one emphasizes the protection of humans, the other emphasizes the protection of animals – this arrangement *can* have a deleterious effect on community support for the shelter. Actions such as issuing citations for leash-law violations, charging a fee for people to reclaim their impounded dogs, and declaring dogs “dangerous or potentially dangerous” don’t endear the organization to potential supporters. The issues are often no-win for the shelter; regardless of the action taken, someone will be unhappy.

Nonprofit shelters with government contracts usually euthanize greater numbers of animals, since they are compelled to accept all stray animals as defined by the contract. This group of animals is likely to include some of the least potentially adoptable animals in the community.

■ **Limited admission nonprofit shelter:**

Also a 501(c)3 tax-deductible organization with a “protect animals from people” mission, this type of shelter is sometimes called “selective intake,” “guaranteed adoption,” “low-kill,” or “no-kill.”

Note: Animal lovers should never assume that so-called “no-kill” shelters are the most praiseworthy, or provide the kindest care to their wards. Please see “What’s Wrong With No-Kill?” on the next page.

Also governed by a board of directors, this shelter limits the number of animals selected, usually with some kind of screening test for potential adoptability. There may be a long waiting list to place a dog or cat in one of these shelters, as the responsible ones only accept a new animal when kennel space opens up. Their low-kill or no-kill policies may mean that some animal companions occupy kennel space for many months – or even years.

■ **Animal rescue groups:** These may or may not be 501(c)3 not-for-profit organizations, and they may or may not be so-called “no-kill.” Some rescue groups have an actual shelter; some house their dogs in foster homes and at boarding kennels.

Breed rescue groups that operate under the auspices of their breed clubs are usually not-for-profit with a governing board of directors. They are often realistic about euthanizing dogs who aren’t good adoption prospects – although not always. They tend to use scarce resources wisely, and make thoughtful and difficult decisions about how to help the most number of dogs with those limited resources.

Non-breed-affiliated rescues and mixed-breed rescues can run the gamut from 501(c)3 legitimate nonprofit rescues to private adoption agencies to hoarders that pass as rescues.

The good, the bad, the ugly

Within each category, there are outstanding shelters and horrible ones. Quality of animal care doesn’t depend on a big budget – the basics of feeding animals, cleaning the cages and kennels, and keeping a shelter grounds uncluttered and tidy are within the budget of any legitimate shelter. Do you know how the shelter(s) in your community measure up? Here’s how to find out:

■ **Identify the type of organization.** This information will help you understand how and why they do what they do, and how to best interact with them.

■ **Go to its website.** Many shelters these days have a comprehensive Internet presence, and you can find a lot about an organization – or at least what it *says* about itself, by visiting its site.

■ **Visit each shelter.** Keep your eyes, nose, and ears wide open. Do you see dirt, clutter, and lots of hazardous conditions, or are the facilities clean, reasonably odor-free, and well-maintained? Deferred maintenance could be a function of budgetary shortfalls but cleaning should not be short-changed.

■ **Watch customer service interactions.** Are the staff members polite and helpful, even in emotionally charged situations and with overwrought clients? Or are they abrupt, rude, and disrespectful? Courtesy costs nothing, and there’s no excuse for rude shelter staff.

■ **Observe the animals in the kennels.** Do they seem reasonably well-adjusted in the admittedly stressful environment of *any* shelter, even the best ones? Do they enjoy environmental enrichment, such as having beds in kennels, stuffed Kongs, toys, outside play areas, and opportunities to go for walks? Or do you see barrier aggression, obsessive/compulsive spinning, depression, and self-mutilation?

■ **Evaluate the population density.** Are there one or two dogs per kennel, or 15? Do puppies and kittens have appropriate

playmates? Do kennel-mates get along well, or are some intimidated by others?

■ **Find out what services they offer, then utilize their services.** Walk through their adoption process. (Heck, you could even adopt a shelter dog!) Call for help with a stray dog, an animal in distress, or a neighborhood animal dispute.

■ **Become a volunteer.** You’ll learn more about the behind-the-scenes operation of the shelter if you’re part of the scene. If you can’t handle being in the shelter frequently, volunteer in some other area, such as public relations, fundraising, education, or putting on special events. Suspend judgment for at least the first six months. If you come in like gangbusters, telling everyone how to improve, you’ll lose trust and credibility. Walk many miles in their shoes first.

■ **Ride along with an officer.** Spending time with an officer in the field is a major eye-opener, guaranteed to give you a whole new perspective on the challenges of the animal protection profession.

■ **Watch the news and search the archives.** Does your shelter regularly appear in the media or in your local newspaper’s letters to the editor? Are the stories and letters positive or negative? Go back in recent history (five to 10 years) to see what issues and challenges the shelter has faced in the not-too distant past, and how well they handled them.

Making change

When you’ve completed your investigation, you have several options. You can focus on the best shelter in your area and give it your support. Make an appointment to meet with the top administrator (executive director, not board president or city administrator) or her designee, and discuss your findings. Be positive! Start by praising all the great things you found out about the shelter. Then express your understanding and empathy for the difficult challenges almost every shelter faces: funding shortages, staff turnover, community conflicts . . . and ask how you can help. Then do.

As you gain the respect and trust of shelter staff and administrators, you can truly be effective in making the good shelter even better. Be sure to express your support with your checkbook as well, or even in your will.



Animal control officers are sometimes maligned by the public due to their role as enforcers of local animal-related laws and codes. The fact is, their jobs are emotionally difficult and physically taxing, but they do it so they can help animals.

Another option is to turn your attentions to one or more of the less well-run shelters and do the same. If they're open to your interest and desire to help, work with them. If they're not receptive to your advances, move up the organizational ladder until you find someone who is, and work from there. You can help draw community attention to the problems in a positive way,

and aid in finding solutions.

If your advances are met with stone walls and silence, you may need to take stronger action, particularly if animals are suffering as a result. Document your concerns by writing letters – and keep copies for your own files. Perhaps more stridency with the powers-that-be can shake something loose. If necessary, promise to go to

the media – and then do – and gather community support to pressure for change. If the shelter is a municipal shelter, remember that your elected officials are ultimately responsible for seeing that the right thing gets done – and you are a voter.

If you discover a hoarder posing as a rescuer, insist on enforcement action. Your research should have already informed you as to which agency in your community does cruelty investigations. Go to the head of the investigations department and present any evidence you have regarding the situation. Know that you may be called upon to testify in court if the agency isn't able to resolve the situation more gently.

Don't be swayed by the tears or protests of the hoarder/rescuer who professes to "love" her animals. They all say that. And she probably does love them. That doesn't change the fact that animals suffer and die under her loving care – or lack thereof.

If the agency is reluctant to diligently pursue an investigation, climb the ladder to the top of the organization and the media, if necessary. The animals are counting on those who care, and who are brave enough and strong enough to take action. 🐾

Pat Miller, CPDT, is WDJ's Training Editor. She has worked and/or volunteered in animal shelters since 1976. Her husband, Paul Miller, is the Executive Director of the Humane Society of Washington County (Maryland).

What's Wrong With "No-Kill"?

It's a worthy goal . . . but its reality today is a deceptive myth.

BY PAT MILLER

Imagine a world where no dog is ever euthanized for being homeless. Where there are more homes than dogs, and lists of potential adopters are maintained at every possible dog-adoption-source, with families and individuals anxiously awaiting the next available canine. Where every dog is treasured, and the thought of "rehoming" one of these wonderful, valuable creatures is totally preposterous. Wouldn't we all be delighted to see that?

That's a lovely vision. But today, in

the United States, it is just that – a vision. Despite the growing ranks of shelters that claim to be "no-kill" and the proponents who claim that it's possible to turn every shelter into a "no-kill" facility, in reality, we are far from being a "no-kill nation." The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) estimates that 3 to 4 million homeless dogs and cats are euthanized at animal shelters in this country every year. Thirty years ago, that number was 17 to 18 million. Taken in perspective, that looks like a huge improvement, and indeed it is – but

3 to 4 million per year is still a lot of dead dogs and cats. So, if more and more shelters are adopting "no-kill" policies, where are all these deaths coming from?

Deaths are shifted elsewhere

Given the number of euthanized animals, it's clear that "no-kill" is a misnomer. The animal protection profession has generally accepted the definition of "no-kill" as "no euthanasia of animals who are adoptable, or who will be adoptable after medical or behavioral treatment or rehabilitation."

This means that even shelters that call themselves “no-kill” may, in fact, euthanize animals that they deem to be unadoptable. One “no-kill” shelter may decide that a dog with mild resource-guarding can’t be rehabilitated because it doesn’t have staff to work with dogs who need behavior modification, or because its organization regards all aggression-related behaviors as legally risky. Another “no-kill” shelter may have an entire department of behavior experts who work with the shelter dogs, and commit significant resources to behavior modification. At the first shelter the dog dies. At the second, he lives. But they’re both “no-kill” by industry definition.

The same is true with physical ailments. One shelter may be able to isolate and treat a dog with upper respiratory infection, or one with a broken leg, while another might euthanize that same dog due to lack of resources, or different priorities for finite resources. Both call themselves “no-kill.”

Some limited admission shelters disingenuously call themselves “no-kill” by hiding behind the industry definition, even though their supporters probably don’t understand the distinction. Some also claim the “no-kill” designation because



Supporting your local full-service shelter will help it to improve conditions for all of the animals in your community, through adoption and spay/neuter programs, public education, behavior/training information, and more.

when an animal must be euthanized they don’t do it themselves – they send it to a full-service shelter.

In my opinion, even legitimate, well-run limited admission shelters that rarely euthanize should avoid describing themselves as “no-kill.” The best ones are frank with their supporters about what they do, why, and how. These shelters honestly admit that try as they might, there are times when their humane choice is to euthanize an animal that’s not thriving under their care. Or they at least acknowledge their debt to the other shelters in the community that do take on the responsibility for caring for – and euthanizing – the animals that they can’t or won’t.

Sad result of misguided support

Here is one serious problem with the recent popularity of the “no-kill shelter” appellation: Competition for donor dollars for animal protection can be fierce, and the appeal of the “no-kill” designation – whether it’s accurate *or* misleading – tends to attract more support from the limited donor pool. Full-service shelters are just as needy, if not more so, than no-kill shelters, and for many, it’s a huge struggle to convince their donors not to jump ship for organizations with a happier-sounding mission. And few donors are

aware that their donations to “no-kill” facilities may actually help fewer animals than contributions to full-service shelters.

Perhaps the most tragic result of a poorly conceived no-kill policy, however, is that many “no-kill” facilities quickly become overwhelmed with unwanted animals, who, too often, are then subjected to overcrowded, sub-par living conditions for indefinite (sometimes years-long) periods. Quality of life takes a distant back seat for dogs in an overcrowded facility, and many dogs who are housed for life in a kennel suffer severe psychological distress resulting in depression, aggression, and/or obsessive/compulsive behaviors. Refusal to euthanize these dogs not only results in their mental and/or physical suffering, but also severely restricts the number of additional healthy, adoptable dogs these facilities could help.

Dedicated animal protection professionals made significant progress in their efforts to reduce euthanasia numbers well before the “no-kill” movement became widely popular a decade ago. Unfortunately, despite all of those efforts, as well as those of the “no-kill” proponents, euthanasia numbers have remained static in the past 10 years. (And, sadly, there has been a quantum rise in the investigation and prosecution of animal hoarders who have represented themselves as legitimate rescue groups. In many cases, they were the recipients of dogs from “low-kill” and “no-kill” shelters.)

Usually when something seems too good to be true, it is. Such is the case with the as-yet empty promise of “no-kill.” I do believe that someday, all animals who have potential to be adopted will find lifelong loving homes. That day hasn’t arrived, but I think it will. The achievement will require the continued hard work of dedicated and realistic animal protection professionals who continue public education, spay/neuter campaigns, and science-based animal behavior and training programs. It will take many more years. But yes, the day will come. 🐾

Pat Miller, CPDT, is WDJ’s Training Editor. See “Resources,” page 24, for contact information.

What you can do . . .

- **Avidly** promote spay/neuter programs. For example, if you see someone giving puppies away at the supermarket, give her the phone number for the organization that provides free or reduced-cost spay/neuter in your area.
- Be dogged in your efforts to help your friends and relatives find the dog of their dreams in a shelter or from a breed rescue group.
- Send a contribution to your local shelter. Even tiny amounts add up and really help.



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- A natural shampoo formula that can help keep your dog flea-free (p. 201)
- The taboo training technique that can cause aggression (p. 148)

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WDJ Training Editor Pat Miller is author of *The Power of Positive Dog Training*; *Positive Perspectives: Love Your Dog, Train Your Dog*; *Positive Perspectives: Know Your Dog, Train Your Dog*; and *Play with Your Dog*. All of these books are available from DogWise, (800) 776-2665 or dogwise.com

HOLISTIC VETERINARIANS

American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association (AHVMA), 2214 Old Emmorton Road, Bel Air, MD 21015. (410) 569-0795. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a list of holistic veterinarians in your area, or search ahvma.org

TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION

Pat Miller, CPDT, Peaceable Paws Dog and Puppy Training, Hagerstown, MD. Train with modern, dog-friendly positive methods. Group and private training, Rally, behavior modification, workshops, intern and apprentice programs. (301) 582-9420; peaceablepaws.com

RESOURCES FOR A LOW-FAT DIET

Free Range Chicken Breast Wraps, (586) 446-9203, freerangedogchews.com

Liver Biscotti, (800) 933-5595, liverbiscotti.com

Primal Defense HSO Probiotics Formula, (866) 465-0051, gardenoflifeusa.com

The Honest Kitchen Verve and Preference, (866) 437-9729, thehonestkitchen.com

Animal Essentials' Multi-Vitamin Herbal Supplement, (888) 463-7748, animalessentials.com

EVO Dog Treats, (800) 532-7261, evopet.com

Merrick Training Treats and Squares, (800) 664-7387, merrickpetcare.com

The ABC Way to Healthier and Happier Dogs, by Steve Brown, seespotlivelonger.com

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Our annual analysis of kibbled dog foods.

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When to use hand signals (and how to train your dog to respond to them), and when verbal cues are more useful.

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Teaching your kids how to use positive training techniques not only works, but also helps your dog learn to love kids in general. That's a win/win!

Surround Sound

How to use an acupuncture method called "Surrounding the Dragon" to help your dog heal his exercise-related injuries.