

DRY CAT FOODS

Lawrence S. Spiegel

Andover, Massachusetts

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Several commercially available dry cat foods supply the known nutritional needs of cats. The protein level should be at least 30%, but cannot be fixed because of the variability of protein digestibility and amount of feed consumed, as well as age, environmental, and other dietary factors. All these cat foods contained fish meal, meat and bone meal, milk solids, and soybean meal, with a mixed cereal base, all high in essential amino acids. Fat contents of commercial products range from 5 to 10%, well below the 20 to 30% used in laboratory diets, so fat supplements are usually necessary.

Vitamins, wheat germ meal and brewers' yeast are used liberally in all dry formulas which meet vitamin requirements. The choline requirement in cats is more than 100 mg/day to avoid fatty livers, and all these diets contain at least 300 mg/100 Gm. Ash content ranges from 10.0 to 12.5%, reflecting the use of animal meals. Kidney pathology resulting from high ash diets is not clearly defined, but minerals should be fed in accordance with NRC recommendation. The calcium:phosphorus ration should be as close as possible to 1:1.