## WHAT IS YOUR PET EATING?

Pet food ads often paint a picture of choice beef cuts, whole chickens, fresh fruits, veggies, and grains wholesome meals for your dog or cat. It sounds appealing, but the reality can be quite different. A bit of digging reveals a gap between what's promised and what's delivered.

The pet food industry is closely tied to human food, agriculture, and pharmaceutical giants. Big corporations owning pet food companies is a perfect setup: the pet food becomes a dumping ground for by-products and leftovers deemed unfit for humans, thanks to lax regulations. Ann Martin, author of Food Pets Die For, notes that in Canada and the U.S., many pet foods contain the "4 D's"—dead, dying, diseased, or disabled animals.

Most mainstream, heavily advertised pet foods rely on cheap, grain-heavy formulas. Ingredients like corn, wheat, soy, and brewers rice keep costs low but offer little nutrition. Worse, they can trigger health problems like allergies and digestive issues. Chemical preservatives— BHA, BHT, and Ethoxyquin—are common despite links to serious health risks, including cancer.



To mask poor quality, manufacturers add artificial flavors, high salt, and sugars for taste, plus artificial colors to catch your eye (pets couldn't care less about aesthetics) Poor diets can set the stage for a host of issues: obesity, allergies, ear infections, skin and coat troubles, bladder or kidney stones, inflammatory bowel disease, heart conditions, bloat, arthritis, thyroid imbalances, diabetes, and even cancer.

Don't let slick marketing or flashy packaging fool you take control by researching and reading labels. The truth might surprise you.

## **METRO BEAT**

THE BASICS



Rest assured that all of our foods and treats are free from:

- corn, wheat, soy
- brewers rice
- beet pulp
- · by-products and GMOs
- BHA, BHT
- ethoxyquin
- sodium nitrate/nitrate
- propylene glycol
- corn syrup, glucose, fructose
- · artificial colours or flavours

Avoiding these ingredients is a start, but the quality of foods goes beyond the ingredient labels. Understanding what constitutes an optimal diet requires further exploration. We're here to help!

Explore articles and videos on our website at metropetmarket.ca. Join the Real Food Revolution today!

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