



Choosing Your Dog's Food (...continued from page 6)

they're processed. That's why even though the grain may be listed as 'whole' on a pet food label, it is almost always ground first before being cooked into kibble. And the finer it's ground, the more digestible corn will be - but also, the higher its glycemic index. Compared to most other cereal grains used for making dog food, corn has one of the highest glycemic indexes. You don't find corn in commercial dog food because it contributes some unique nutritional property. No, it's there simply because it supplies cheap calories to the product. To put it bluntly, corn makes any pet food you find it in less expensive to produce. And it does this by diluting a recipe's more costly meat ingredients. If you feel that you must feed corn to your pet, be sure that it is quite far down the list.

Upon examination, the ingredient label on the back of the dog food bag will assist you in finding a dog food that will supply your dog with all the nutrients needed to be a healthy, happy dog. Remember, the higher percentage of the ingredient that is used to manufacture the dog food, the higher up the list it will be. This is why you want to make sure that within the first five ingredients there aren't any fillers.

Common Ingredients in Dog Food

Beef Tallow: Fat from beef.

BHA: (butylated hydroxyanisole) a fat preservative.

Bone/Meat Meal: Blood, hair, hooves, horns, hide trimmings, *manure*, and any stomach and rumen contents.

Brewers Rice: Small fragments of rice kernels separated from milled rice.

Brown Rice: Unpolished rice left over after the kernels have been removed.

Corn Gluten Meal: By-product after the manufacture of corn syrup or starch.

Ethoxyquin: Chemical preservative used to prevent the dog food from spoiling.

Fish Meal: Clean ground tissue of un-decomposed whole fish or fish cuttings, with or without the oil extracted.

Ground Corn: Entire corn kernel ground or chopped.

Meat By-products: Clean parts of any animal - can include domestic, wild or zoo animals, road kill, and dead, diseased, disabled, or dying livestock. Most shockingly, this also can include dogs and cats.* - By-products to include the lungs, spleen, kidneys, brain, liver, blood, bone, stomach, and intestines without their contents.

Meat: Clean flesh of any slaughtered animal, domestic or wild, diseased, euthanized, road-kill, etc., to include the striated skeletal muscle, tongue, diaphragm, heart, esophagus, overlying fat, and the skin, sinew, nerves, and blood vessels normally found within that flesh; not typically including muscle.

Poultry By-products: Clean parts of slaughtered poultry (ducks, chickens, geese, turkeys) such as heads, feet, undeveloped eggs, internal organs, and feathers that cannot be avoided during the process.

Soybean Meal: By-product from producing soybean oil.

Tocopherols: Natural preservatives.

* *Fast Food Nation* author Eric Schlosser writes, "Although leading American manufacturers promise never to put rendered pets into their pet food, it is still legal to do so. A Canadian company, Sanimal Inc., was putting 40,000 pounds of dead dogs and dead cats into its dog and cat food every week, until discontinuing the practice in June 2001. "This food is healthy and good," said the com-

pany's vice president of procurement, responding to critics, "but some people don't like to see meat meal that contains any pets."

Avoid Dog Food with a High Content of the Following Ingredients

1. **Wheat**
2. **Corn**
3. **Soy**
4. **By-Product Meal** - Secondary or incidental product deriving from a manufacturing process, a chemical reaction or a biochemical pathway, and is not the primary product or service being produced; Lacks the digestibility of muscle meat.
5. **Digest** - A cooked-down broth made from specified or unspecified parts of animals (depending on the type of digest used). If the source is unspecified (e.g. "Animal" or "Poultry", the animals used can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, miscellaneous road kill, animals euthanized at shelters, restaurant and supermarket refuse and so on.
6. **Ethoxyquin** - A quinoline-based antioxidant used as a food preservative (E324) and a pesticide.
7. **Egg Product** - Lower quality product obtained from egg graders, egg breakers, and/or hatchery operations that is dehydrated, handled as liquid or frozen.
8. **Brewer's Rice** - A processed rice product that is missing many of the nutrients contained in whole ground rice and brown rice thus reducing the quality.
9. **Preservatives** - A naturally occurring or synthetic substance that is added to products such as foods, pharmaceuticals, paints, biological samples, wood, etc. to prevent decomposition by microbial growth or by undesirable chemical changes.
10. **Cellulose** - Mainly obtained from wood pulp and cotton, cellulose is the structural component of the primary cell wall of green plants and many forms of algae.

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SHOULD YOU NEUTER YOUR MALE BOYKIN SPANIEL?

We all need to weigh the relative health risks and benefits when considering whether or not to neuter our male Boykins, and male dogs in general. In the US, most humane societies, shelters and rescue groups urge, or require, pet owners to have their pets neutered to prevent the birth of unwanted litters that contribute to overpopulation of animals in the rescue system.

I recently received a "reminder" card that my 7-month old Boykin, William, was due for an appointment to be neutered. I also understand that responsible owners of dogs who are well supervised and receive regular veterinary care need a different set of considerations. These ask us to make decisions based upon a thorough knowledge of the credible information from peer reviewed veterinary research, and consultation with our breeders and veterinarians. We also need to consider breed specific health issues and age of the dog when making informed decisions. Tradition holds that dogs be castrated between 6 and nine months of age, but this recommendation is not based in science. In fact, it's likely that a decision not to neuter the dog may be in the best health interests of many dogs in the long run.

A comprehensive review of the research studies suggests that no compelling case can be made for neutering most male dogs, especially young ones, to prevent future health problems.

Advantages of neutering:

- Sexually dimorphic behaviors such as mounting and some forms of aggressions related to females in estrus are likely to be reduced.
- Eliminates the small risk (<1%) of dying from testicular cancer.

- Reduces the risk of non-cancerous prostate disorders
- One study of 76 dogs aged 11-14 found that neutered males were more likely to progress from one to two cognitive impairment conditions (e.g. disorientation, changes in social interaction) than intact dogs.

Adverse effects:

- Increases the risk of osteosarcoma (bone cancer), especially if neutered before age 1.
- Increases the risk of cardiac hemangiosarcoma by 2.4X
- Increases the risk for hypothyroidism
- Triples the risk of obesity
- Increases the risk of adverse reactions to vaccinations
- CCL (cranial cruciate ligament) injury is very common, but it has been demonstrated that CCL may be more common in neutered dogs – research is pending.
- A study suggests that neutered dogs may have a 3.1 X higher risk of patellar luxation.

While there is no consensus on the effects of neutering on aggressive behavior, some recent studies (AKC-CHF) have shown increased behavioral problems in male and female dogs, with aggression as the most common problem in males.

Overall, neutering male dogs decreases the incidence of disorders with low health significance, and appears to increase more significant health disorders. I hope that further research can be more specific to Boykin's regarding spay/neutering. Owners, breeders and veterinarians need to consider all the health, disease and breed specific information on an individual basis when making informed decisions about neutering.

Choosing Your Dog's Food (...continued from page 7)

Compare Purina Beneful & Taste of the Wild Top 10 Ingredients

Purina Beneful Original

Ground yellow corn, chicken by-product meal, corn gluten meal, whole wheat flour, animal fat preserved with mixed-tocopherols (form of Vitamin E), rice flour, beef, soy flour, sugar, propylene glycol...

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS:			
Crude Protein (Min)	23.0%	Linoleic Acid (Min)	1.8%
Crude Fat (Min)	12.0%	Calcium (Ca) (Min)	1.1%
Crude Fiber (Max)	4.0%	Iron (Fe) (Min)	175 mg/kg
Moisture (Max)	14.0%	Zinc (Zn) (Min)	135 mg/kg
		Selenium (Se) (Min)	0.30 mg/kg
		Vitamin A (Min)	15,000 IU/kg
		Vitamin E (Min)	100 IU/kg

INGREDIENTS: Ground yellow corn, chicken by-product meal, corn gluten meal, whole wheat flour, animal fat preserved with mixed-tocopherols (form of Vitamin E), salmon, rice flour, soy flour, sugar, propylene glycol, meat and bone meal, water, tricalcium phosphate, safflower oil, animal digest, salt, phosphoric acid, sorbic acid (a preservative), potassium chloride, dried carrots, dried green beans, L-Lysine monohydrochloride, calcium propionate (a preservative), choline chloride, Vitamin E supplement, zinc sulfate, added color (Red 40, Yellow 5, Yellow 6, Blue 2), ferrous sulfate, DL-Methionine, manganese sulfate, niacin, Vitamin A supplement, calcium carbonate, copper sulfate, Vitamin B-12 supplement, calcium pantothenate, thiamine mononitrate, garlic oil, pyridoxine hydrochloride, riboflavin supplement, Vitamin D-3 supplement, calcium iodate, menadione sodium bisulfite complex (source of Vitamin K activity), folic acid, biotin, sodium selenite. E-4092

Manufactured by: Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, St. Louis, MO 63164 U.S.A.

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Animal feeding tests using Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) procedures substantiate that Beneful HealthyRadiance dog food provides complete and balanced nutrition for all life stages.

Taste of the Wild High Prairie

Bison, lamb meal, chicken meal, egg product, sweet potatoes, peas, potatoes, canola oil, roasted bison, roasted venison...

Ingredients		
Bison, lamb meal, chicken meal, egg product, sweet potatoes, peas, potatoes, canola oil, roasted bison, roasted venison, natural flavor, tomato pomace, ocean fish meal, salt, choline chloride, dried chicory root, tomatoes, blueberries, raspberries, yucca schidigera extract, dried fermentation products of Enterococcus faecium, Lactobacillus acidophilus, Lactobacillus casei and Lactobacillus plantarum, dried Trichoderma longibrachiatum fermentation extract, vitamin E supplement, iron proteininate, zinc proteininate, copper proteininate, ferrous sulfate, zinc sulfate, copper sulfate, potassium iodide, thiamine mononitrate (vitamin B1), manganese proteininate, manganous oxide, ascorbic acid, vitamin A supplement, biotin, niacin, calcium pantothenate, manganese sulfate, sodium selenite, pyridoxine hydrochloride (vitamin B6), vitamin B12 supplement, riboflavin (vitamin B2), vitamin D supplement, folic acid.		
Guaranteed Analysis		
Crude Protein	32.0%	minimum
Crude Fat	18.0%	minimum
Crude Fiber	3.0%	maximum
Moisture	10.0%	maximum
Zinc	150 mg/kg	minimum
Selenium	0.4 mg/kg	minimum
Vitamin E	150 IU/kg	minimum
Omega-6 Fatty Acids*	2.8%	minimum
Omega-3 Fatty Acids*	0.3%	minimum

*Not recognized as an essential nutrient by the AAFCO Dog Food Nutrient Profile.