

Breeder Tips from United All Breed Registry

Videos of Note



Behind the Bag -
What's Really in Your
Pet's Food?
an introduction to
reading pet food
labels

Just for Fun:
Everybody Loves
Ginger



Breakfast at Ginger's



Look for this seal on
products to know they
are verified GM-free

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What's In Your Dog Food?

Our animals are what they eat. And we want healthy, vibrant animals. So we pay attention to what we feed them. Lately there have been so many pet food recalls that we have to pay *more* than the usual attention. Here are a few of the big issues, in a nutshell:

- **Grain-free diets.** Proponents say grains aren't part of a cat or dog's natural diet (in the wild), and that these carb sources are contributing to obesity, disease and immune system/allergy issues in our animals. I spoke to 3 salesmen at a recent trade show, guys who were featuring these foods at their booths, who all thought grain-free pet food was a ridiculous fad.
- **Aflatoxin concentrations.** Aflatoxins, produced by a fungus in plants, cause acute lethal illness and cancer in animals and humans, and are among the most carcinogenic substances on earth. Aflatoxins poison the liver, and their carcinogenic properties can lead to tumor formation. Last year's drought conditions resulted in dangerously high concentrations of aflatoxins in grain crops, especially corn. Tons of pet foods had to be rejected by inspectors or recalled from the shelves. Keep an eye out for more of this in 2013 as the drought continues in some areas.
- **Genetically modified/engineered food.** Banned by the entire European Union since the 90s, our corn, soy, cottonseed and canola in the U.S. are now 90% genetically modified (GM). This is not an extension of normal hybridizing or plant improvement; it involves taking genetic material from animals and other sources and splicing it into a plant's DNA. Sometimes, they are introducing a pesticide directly into the plant genetics, so that bugs eating that plant will die. So what happens when we, or our animals, eat those plants? Initial research is very disturbing; researchers are seeing significant problems with fertility, reproduction, lactation, digestion and life expectancy. The worst news is that in the U.S. there is no requirement that GM/GE foods be labeled as such, though we certainly have a right to know this before we buy. If a food is labeled 'organic', it will not contain GM/GE ingredients. You can also look for the official label of the Non-GMO Project (see sidebar).
- **Dangerous by-products.** In many cases the rendered meat used in pet foods came from condemned animals that had already decayed or that were euthanized, thus giving your pet small doses of the lethal euthanizing drug Pentobarbital every time they chow down on their feed. Not to mention the body bags, microchips, dog collars and everything else thrown in with them.

Find out more:

[Dog Food Advisor](#) has some excellent tools for researching commercial dog foods, including a dog food calculator and reviews, with a breakdown of nutrient content and ingredients for each reviewed dog food. You can sign up to get news of pet food recalls by email.

[GM Ingredients](#) Dr. Michael Fox's excellent article about genetically modified ingredients in pet food

[Aflatoxin](#) Dr. Karen Becker's article for Healthy Pets with more info about aflatoxin levels in pet food

[Sign a petition for GM labeling](#) and see statistics on worldwide bans of GM foods.

[Genetically Modified ANIMALS](#) glow in the dark. Definitely not natural.