

The Best Cat Food Cheat Sheet

How to Decode Cat Food Ingredients

What to Look For

High-quality animal protein as the first two ingredients

Specified meat, meat meal, or byproduct as first two ingredients (“chicken”, “chicken meal”, “chicken byproducts”)

Nutritional adequacy

Certified as “complete and balanced” by the AAFCO for “all life stages” or for your cat’s life stage: Gestation/lactation, growth (for kittens), or maintenance (for adults).

What to Avoid

Unspecified meat sources

“meat”, “meat meal”, “animal byproduct”, “animal byproduct meal”, “meat and bone meal”, “bone product”, “broth”, “animal fat”, “liver”

Artificial colors and added flavoring

Artificial flavor, natural flavor, titanium dioxide, yellow 5, red 40, blue 2, yellow 6, etc.

Artificial preservatives

BHA, BHT, TBHQ, and ethoxyquin

Toxic ingredients

Onions, garlic, chives

Approved Cat Foods

Dry Food

Acana Regionals

Appalachian Ranch
Grasslands
Meadowland
Wild Atlantic

Farmina

N&D Ancestral Grain line
N&D Grain-Free line

Health Extension

Chicken & Brown Rice
Grain-Free Turkey & Salmon

Merrick

Before Grain

Orijen

Cat & Kitten
Fit & Trim
Regional Red
Six Fish
Tundra

Tiki Cat

Born Carnivore
Chicken Luau

Wet Food

Best Feline Friend

OMG (Oh My Gravy) line

Canada Fresh

Beef Canned Cat Food
Chicken Canned Cat Food
Duck Canned Cat Food
Lamb Canned Cat Food
Red Meat Canned Cat Food
Salmon Canned Cat Food

Evanger

Signature Series

Health Extension

Entree for Cats & Kittens
Grain-Free

K9 Feline Natural

Beef And Hoki Feast
Chicken And Lamb Feast
Chicken And Venison Feast
Lamb And King Salmon Feast

Lotus

Just Juicy

Nutrisca

Truly Flaked
Truly Shredded

Tiki Cat

After Dark
Aloha Friends
Tiki Cat Grill
Tiki Cat Luau
Velvet Mousse

Petite Cuisine

Aunt Molly’s Tuna with Prawns
Baby Bluebell’s Chicken With Pumpkin
Cousin Camila’s Tuna with Crab
Grandma Daisy’s Sesame Chicken
L’il Violet’s Tuna With Pumpkin & Tilapia
Lil’ Violet’s Tuna with Sole
Mother Petunia’s Yellow Fin Tuna
Sister Rose’s Tuna With Pumpkin & Ocean Whitefish
Sweet Ivy’s Chicken Pot Pie
Sweet Ivy’s Chicken With Sweet Potato

Wholehearted

Flaked in Broth
Flaked in Gravy

Ziwi Peak

Moist Beef
Moist Lamb
Moist Mackerel & Lamb
Moist Rabbit & Lamb
Moist Venison For Cats