



July 12, 2019

**BLUE BUFFALO ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM WSAVA GLOBAL NUTRITION COMMITTEE:
RECOMMENDATIONS ON SELECTING PET FOODS**

Do you employ a full-time qualified nutritionist? Appropriate qualifications are either a PhD in animal nutrition or board-certification by the American College of Veterinary Nutrition (ACVN) or European College of Veterinary Comparative Nutrition (ECVCN)? What is the nutritionist's name and qualifications? Who formulates your foods and what are his/her credentials?

At Blue Buffalo, we have an in-house R&D team, including PhD nutritionists and animal scientists, who work full-time on the development and formulation of Blue Buffalo diets. This team is also responsible for ensuring that all formulas are thoroughly tested to confirm compliance with guaranteed analysis and product claims, as well as conducting ongoing research and product testing to provide veterinarians and their clients with the best possible nutritional advances. This team is supported by and works closely with a technical services team of clinical veterinarians. The R&D formulation team is currently led by PhD animal nutritionist, Dr. Greg Reinhart, and supported by PhD animal nutritionists Drs. Nolan Frantz, Matt Panasevich, Yuka Mitsuhashi, as well as PhD flavor chemist Qing Bin and PhD cereal chemist Lauren Brewer. Our team is also completed by MS animal nutritionists Lauren Katz and Danielle Fiacco. Our team of nutrition experts has many decades of experience in the research and formulation of well-pet and veterinary therapeutic diets.

Are your diets tested using AAFCO feeding trials or by formulation to meet AAFCO nutrient profiles? If the latter, do they meet AAFCO nutrient profiles by formulation or by analysis of the finished product?

All Blue Buffalo diets are formulated using state-of-the-art software that utilizes an up-to-date nutrient profile of each ingredient, and takes into account our manufacturing processes and shelf-life. These formulas are designed under the guidance of PhD animal nutritionists, veterinarians and food scientists.

Blue Natural Veterinary Diets dry products are tested via AAFCO feeding trials to demonstrate that they provide complete and balanced nutrition. Complete and balanced diets also undergo nutritional analysis to ensure they meet or exceed the AAFCO nutrient profile for the lifestage for which they are intended.

In addition to scientific formulation based on the latest data and principles, Blue Buffalo diets are rigorously tested for product performance. This testing includes feeding to assess stool quality, palatability, and digestibility for all diets, as well as urine pH for dry feline diets and product efficacy for veterinary products.



Where are your foods produced and manufactured?

Blue Buffalo products, including those sold outside the US, are produced through a hybrid network of US-based, owned and contracted manufacturing facilities, plus one treat contract manufacturing facility in Ireland. This network enables us to support continuous and rapid product innovation. All of our contracted manufacturing partners are required to undergo a rigorous quality assurance certification process and FSMA (Food Safety & Modernization Act) compliance before they are allowed to make any of our products. When they are authorized to manufacture our products, they must follow strict quality protocols and specifications dictated and overseen by the BLUE quality, regulatory and food safety teams. Blue Buffalo is proud of our state-of-the-art Heartland Dry and Treats Manufacturing plants in Joplin, Missouri and Richmond, Indiana. These internal plants were all greenfield constructions, equipped with the latest and state-of-the-art processing equipment.

What specific quality control measures do you use to assure the consistency and quality of your ingredients and the end product?

The Blue Buffalo Quality Assurance program is designed to cover all key phases of the manufacturing and ingredient procurement to ensure that BLUE offers the safest dog and cat food products possible, and that these products meet BLUE's nutritional specifications. Included in this program are

- Blue Buffalo's R&D group develops rigorous ingredient specifications, our sourcing group identifies quality suppliers, and our quality organization screens these suppliers and ensures compliance to our specifications to ensure ingredient quality before ingredients ever arrive at our manufacturing locations.
- Once ingredients arrive at our manufacturing locations, they must undergo rigorous preprocess lab testing to ensure only ingredients that meet our specifications are being used in BLUE products.
- Frequent in-process quality checks are mandated to achieve superior quality finished products.
- All finished products must undergo post-process on-site and/or third party laboratory testing (both nutrient and microbiological) to ensure BLUE products meet our specifications and quality standards.
- Announced & unannounced on-going quality audits of all ingredient suppliers and manufacturing facilities are a regular part of quality assurance.



Will you provide a complete nutrient analysis for the dog or cat food in question?

Blue Buffalo maintains a database of nutrient analytical values, including average as-fed %, dry matter %, and gram/100 kcal basis, and shares nutrient information with veterinarians on request. In addition, the BLUE Natural Veterinary Diets product guide is available to veterinary professionals and includes nutrient composition information for those formulas.

What is the caloric value per gram, can or cup of your foods?

Blue Buffalo packaging, our websites, and the BLUE Natural Veterinary Diet product guide all include information on the caloric value of our foods.

What kind of product research has been conducted? Are the results published in any peer-reviewed journals?

Similar to other quality pet food manufacturers, Blue Buffalo products undergo rigorous tests that include and are not limited to microbiology, nutrient, shelf-life, stool quality, palatability, digestibility, urine pH and product efficacy. We have published summaries of these studies for BLUE Natural Veterinary Diet formulas in a series of [Blue Buffalo Clinical Reports](#), which were introduced in August 2016.

Our most recent research presented in 2019 includes:

- Lewis, et al. Evaluation of a new hydrolyzed salmon-based diet in dogs with suspected cutaneous adverse food reaction: a multi-center randomized triple-blinded clinical trial. In: Proceedings of the North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum (NAVDF); 2019 April 10-13; Austin, Tx.
- Frantz, et al. Novel food with mixed soluble fiber promotes improved stool scores in cats with chronic diarrhea. In: Proceedings of American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM); 2019, June 6-8; Phoenix, AZ.
- Frantz, et al. Novel food with mixed soluble fiber promotes quicker resolution of acute diarrhea in shelter kittens. In: Proceedings of American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM); 2019, June 6-8; Phoenix, AZ.
- Frantz, et al. Novel soluble fiber food promotes stool improvements and resolution of acute diarrhea in shelter puppies. In: Proceedings of American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM); 2019, June 6-8; Phoenix, AZ.