



# Whole Dog Journal™

## 2017 Whole Dog Journal Approved Dry Dog Food List

**We're back to the old dog food list format! Here you'll find WDJ's extensive list of approved dog foods, plus nutrition breakdowns of each dog food, and comments from Nancy.**

By [Nancy Kerns \(/db/fdc.collector?client\\_id=wholedogjournal&form\\_id=maileditform&link\\_id=20\)](#)

The dry dog foods included on Whole Dog Journal's 2017 Approved Dog Food list contain high-quality proteins and many contain whole, unprocessed grains and vegetables. Always ensure that the dry dog food you buy includes whole, fresh meats or single-source meat meal ("chicken meal" or "beef meal.") Avoid dog foods that use vague wording on the ingredients list, such as "poultry meal" or "meat meal." Any label that simply says "meat" should be disqualified as a low-quality source of protein.

This year, we asked companies directly to provide nutrient analyses of their foods from a lab. The vast majority of pet food companies use computer analyses to test their products, but this often returns inaccurate or inconsistent results. Although some foods on the 2017 Approved Dog Food list do use computer analyses instead of sending tests to a lab, we've favored those pet food companies who've provided lab results by highlighting them in the Nutrient Analyses column.

Please note that these are not the only foods on the market that meet our selection criteria! There may be other foods available to you that we are not familiar with. Read the label; if it meets the criteria we've outlined in "[10 Dry Dog Food Shopping Tips \(/issues/20\\_2/features/Dry-Dog-Food-Tips\\_21598-1.html\)](#)", and it fits your budget and suits your dog, great! We suggest that you contact the company and ask for the complete nutrient analysis for your dog's food, so you can compare it to the standards for "complete and balanced" canine diets. Then you can make an intelligent, informed decision to buy or not buy the food, based on their response.

So without further ado, Whole Dog Journal presents our 2017 List of Approved Dry Dog Foods!



COMPANY	SELF MFG. OR CO-PACK?	NUTRIENT ANALYSES	# of VARIETIES	MEAT OR MEAL?	PROTEIN & FAT RANGES	RECALLS	PRICE	NOTES
<b>ACANA</b> ( <a href="https://www.acana.com/">https://www.acana.com/</a> ) Champion Pet Foods Morinville, Alberta (877) 939-0006	Self, in Canada and Kentucky	Provided lab results	Acana Heritage: 4	Both	33%; 17%	No	\$2-3/lb.	- Acana Classics varieties contain 55-65% meat; Acana Regionals contain 60% meat; Acana Singles contain 50% single-source animal protein - Only a single supplement is added to Acana Singles: zinc. They are complete and balanced without a vitamin/mineral premix
			Acana Regionals: 4 grain-free	Both	33%; 17%			
			Acana Singles: 4	Both	27%; 17%			
<b>ADDITION</b> ( <a href="http://www.addictionpetfood.co.nz/">http://www.addictionpetfood.co.nz/</a> ) Kent, WA (425) 251-0330	Self, in New Zealand	Provided lab results	6 grain-free	Meal; kangaroo variety made with dried meat	22%-26%; 11%-14%	No	> \$4/lb.	- Varieties include lamb, pork, venison, kangaroo, and two salmon foods. - Foreign manufacturing
<b>ANNAMAET</b> ( <a href="http://www.annamaet.com/">http://www.annamaet.com/</a> ) Telford, PA (888) 723-0367	Co-packed in Ohio and New York	Provided lab results	11; 5 grain-free	Most use meal only, 2 use both	24%-33%; 7%-20%	No	\$2-\$3/lb.	- Company claims no ingredients from China are used, not even any vitamins or minerals
<b>AVODERM</b> ( <a href="http://www.avodermnatural.com/">http://www.avodermnatural.com/</a> ) Central Garden & Pet Walnut Creek, CA (866) 500-6286	Self, in California	Provided lab results	21; 4 grain-free	Most with meals; 7 use both	20%-30%; 8%-16%	Yes; salmonella in 2012	\$1-2/lb.	- Complete nutrient analyses are on the websites for all AvoDerm varieties - Three of AvoDerm's varieties are baked, not extruded; all contain avocado

<p><b>BENCH &amp; FIELD</b>  <a href="https://www.benchandfield.com/">(https://www.benchandfield.com/)</a>  Grand Rapids, MI  (800) 525-4802</p>	Co-packed in Wisconsin	Provided lab results	1	Meals	24%; 15%	No	\$1-2/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only one variety is offered</li> <li>- Sold direct and in Trader Joe's stores</li> </ul>
<p><b>BOREAL</b> (<a href="http://www.borealpetfood.com/">http://www.borealpetfood.com/</a>)  Beamsville, ON  (800) 253-8128</p>	Co-packed in Ontario	Provided computer analyses	Original: 4, 3 grain-free	Both	28%-29%; 15%-18%	No	\$3-4/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Made in Canada, available only in Canada</li> <li>- All foods made with low-carb formulas, "low glycemic" ingredients</li> </ul>
			Proper: 3	Both	24%-27%; 14%-15%			
			Vital: 2	Both	26%-27%; 14%-15%			
<p><b>BLACKWOOD</b>  <a href="http://www.blackwoodpetfood.com/">(http://www.blackwoodpetfood.com/)</a>  BrightPet Nutrition Group  Lisbon, OH  (888) 843-1738</p>	Co-packed in Ohio	Provided lab results	14; 3 grain-free	Meal	23%-33%; 9%-23%	No	\$1-2/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All formulas include omega-3 and -6 levels in GA. Some also include prebiotic and probiotic levels in GA</li> <li>- Blackwood is a "house brand" for BrightPet Nutrition Group</li> <li>- One formula (ExPro) uses porcine plasma (not our fave protein booster)</li> </ul>
<p><b>CARNA4</b> (<a href="http://www.carna4.com/">http://www.carna4.com/</a>)  Toronto, Ontario  (855) 422-7624</p>	Co-packed in Quebec	Provided lab results	2; 1 grain-free	Meat	28%-29%; 15%-17%	No	>\$6/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food is baked</li> <li>- No vitamins or minerals are included; "complete and balanced" from its food ingredients alone</li> </ul>
<p><b>CASTOR &amp; POLLUX</b>  <a href="http://www.castorpolluxpet.com/">(http://www.castorpolluxpet.com/)</a>  Merrick Pet Care (Nestle Purina)  Amarillo, TX  (800) 875-7518</p>	Self in Texas and Kansas	Provided lab results	Organix: 9; 5 grain-free	Both	26%-32%; 11%-14%	No	\$1-2/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organix contains mostly (not all) organic ingredients, including organic chicken</li> <li>- One new grain-free Organix formula contains cubes of freeze-dried fish; new grain-free Ultramix formula contains cubes of freeze-dried beef</li> </ul>
			Ultramix: 6; 4 grain-free	Both	25%-38%; 12%-17%			
<p><b>CHICKEN SOUP</b>  <a href="http://www.chickensouppets.com/">(http://www.chickensouppets.com/)</a>  Cos Cob, CT  (800) 658-0624</p>	Co-pack in Kansas	Provided lab results	11; 4 grain-free	Both	21%-30%; 6%-18%	No	\$1-2/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formerly licensed by Diamond, the brand is now independent and restored to the "Chicken Soup" rights-holder</li> </ul>
<p><b>DR. GARY'S BEST BREED</b>  <a href="http://www.bestbreed.com/">(http://www.bestbreed.com/)</a>  Findlay, OH  (800) 500-5999</p>	Co-packed in Ohio	Provided lab results	15; 2 grain-free	Meals	21%-32%; 7%-22%	No	\$1-2/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Company claims products are GMO-free</li> <li>- Product line includes 6 specific breed foods</li> </ul>

<p><b>DR. TIM'S PET FOOD</b>  <a href="http://www.drTIMS.com/">(http://www.drTIMS.com/)</a>                  Marquette, MI                  (906) 249-8486</p>	<p>Co-packed in Nebraska</p>	<p>Provided lab results</p>	<p>15; 2 grain-free</p>	<p>Meals</p>	<p>21%-32%; 7%-22%</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>\$1-2/lb.</p>	<p>- Company says all foods are low-ash, with high levels of quality fats a priority                  - All formulas contain porcine plasma (not our fave) as a protein source, but fairly low - 13th on the ingredients list</p>
<p><b>EAGLE PACK</b> (<a href="http://www.eaglepack.com/">http://www.eaglepack.com/</a>)                  WellPet                  Tewksbury, MA                  (800) 225-0904</p>	<p>Self in Indiana</p>	<p>Provided lab results</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Meals</p>	<p>23%-30%; 6%-19%</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>\$1-2/lb.</p>	<p>- Most of these foods contain moderate levels of protein and fat; one has reduced fat; one is high-fat and high-protein</p>
<p><b>EARTH BORN HOLISTIC</b>  <a href="https://www.earthbornholisticpetfood.com/">(https://www.earthbornholisticpetfood.com/)</a>                  Midwestern Pet Food                  Evansville, IN                  (800) 474-4163 x450</p>	<p>Self in Indiana</p>	<p>Computer analyses</p>	<p>10; 6 grain-free</p>	<p>Meal</p>	<p>22%-38%; 7%-20%</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>\$1.70-\$2/lb.</p>	<p>- Each product contains animal protein from 2-3 species                  - Family-owned company</p>
<p><b>EVANGER'S</b>  <a href="https://www.evangersdogfood.com/">(https://www.evangersdogfood.com/)</a>                  Wheeling, IL                  (847) 537-0102</p>	<p>Co-packed in Texas</p>	<p>Provided lab results</p>	<p>5; 3 grain-free</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>24%-33%; 12%-16%</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>\$1-2/lb.</p>	<p>- Three formulas are chicken-free, for those looking for an alternative to this common ingredient</p>
<p><b>FARMINA</b> (<a href="http://www.farina.com/us/">http://www.farina.com/us/</a>)                  (N&amp;D)                  Colts Neck, NJ                  (732) 850-3693</p>	<p>Self in Italy</p>	<p>Computer analyses</p>	<p>N&amp;D Low Ancestral Grain: 17 Grain-free: 24</p>	<p>Fresh &amp; dehydrated meats</p>	<p>27%-35%; 11%-22%                  30%-42%; 18%-22%</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>\$2-3/lb.</p>	<p>- "Ancestral Grain" line uses organic spelt and oats                  - Grain-free line are high-protein, moderate fat foods</p>
<p><b>FROMM FAMILY FOODS</b>  <a href="https://www.frommfamily.com/">(https://www.frommfamily.com/)</a>                  Mequon, WI                  (800) 325-6331</p>	<p>Self in Wisconsin</p>	<p>Computer analyses</p>	<p>Four-Star Line: 12; 7 grain-free                  Gold Line: 12                  Classics: 2</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>23%-30%; 11%-19%                  23%-27%; 10%-18%                  21%-23%; 11%-15%</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>\$2-3/lb.                  \$1-2/lb.                  \$1-2/lb.</p>	<p>- Wide variety of protein sources and grain/ grain-free options.                  - Family owned company that makes its own foods.</p>
<p><b>GRANDMA MAE'S</b>  <a href="http://www.grandmamaes.com/">(http://www.grandmamaes.com/)</a>                  New York, NY                  (888) 653-8021</p>	<p>Co-pack in New York</p>	<p>Provided lab results</p>	<p>10; 5 grain-free</p>	<p>6 have both; 4 have meals only</p>	<p>23%-30%; 7%-15%</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>\$1-2/lb.</p>	<p>- Sold only in independent stores in the midwest                  - Senior variety includes dried chicken liver; a maximum of fat is also guaranteed in this variety</p>
<p><b>HALO</b> (<a href="https://www.halopets.com/">https://www.halopets.com/</a>)                  Tampa, FL                  (800) 426-4256</p>	<p>Co-pack (company does not disclose location)</p>	<p>Provided lab results</p>	<p>14; 5 grain-free</p>	<p>Meats only except vegan variety</p>	<p>20%-30%; 10%-20%</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>\$2-3/lb.</p>	<p>- All varieties (except vegan one) contain fresh meat and eggs                  - Vegan variety only for dogs with allergies to multiple animal proteins</p>

<p><b>HOLISTIC SELECT</b>  <a href="http://www.holisticselect.com/">(http://www.holisticselect.com/)</a>                  WellPet                  Tewksbury, MA                  (800) 225-0904</p>	Self in Indiana	Provided lab results	15; 3 grain-free	Meals except 2 grain-free varieties use both	21%-32%; 7%-20%	No	\$2-3/lb.	- Holistic Select line has "digestive health support" features
<p><b>IAMS HEALTHY NATURALS</b>  <a href="http://www.iams.com/">(http://www.iams.com/)</a>                  Mars, Inc.                  Dayton, OH                  (800) 675-3849</p>	Self (company does not disclose location)	Provided computer analyses	6; 1 grain-free	Both	20%-25%; 10%-14%	Yes, salmonella in 2013	<\$1-1/lb.	- One of the 6 foods in this line do NOT meet our selection criteria; the "Ocean Fish & Rice" variety contains "animal fat" - A named meat appears first on 4 of the 5 remaining products; chicken is second to sorghum in the "Weight Management" variety
<p><b>LIFE'S ABUNDANCE</b>  <a href="http://www.lifesabundance.com/">(http://www.lifesabundance.com/)</a>                  Jupiter, FL                  (877) 387-4564</p>	Co-packed in Ohio	Provided lab results	5; 1 grain-free	Both	25%-30%; 11%-19%	No	\$2-3/lb.	
<p><b>LOTUS PET FOODS</b>  <a href="http://www.lotuspets.com/">(http://www.lotuspets.com/)</a>                  Torrance, CA                  (888) 995-6887</p>	Co-packed in Quebec	Provided computer analyses	6; 3 grain-free	3 both; 3 meat	18%-27%; 8%-14%	No	\$2-4/lb.	
<p><b>MERRICK</b>  <a href="http://www.merrickpetcare.com/">(http://www.merrickpetcare.com/)</a>                  (Nestle Purina)                  Amarillo, TX                  (800) 664-7387</p>	Self in Texas	Provided lab results	16; all grain-free	Both	30%-38%; 8%-17%	No	\$2-3/lb.	- Merrick line is 60% animal proteins, 70% in the grain-free varieties - Merrick Pet Care was sold to Nestlé Purina in 2015
<p><b>NATURE'S SELECT</b>  <a href="http://www.naturalpetfooddelivery.com/">(http://www.naturalpetfooddelivery.com/)</a>                  Anaheim, CA                  (714) 993-5500</p>	Co-packed in Texas	Provided lab results	7; 1 grain-free	All but 1 use meals; 1 uses both	22%-33%; 10%-17%	No	\$2-3/lb.	- Company angle: delivered direct to you, super fresh - Availability limited to areas with local distributors; free delivery
<p><b>NATURE'S VARIETY</b>  <a href="http://www.naturesvariety.com/">(http://www.naturesvariety.com/)</a>                  St. Louis, MO                  (888) 519-7387</p>	Co-packed in Kansas and Nebraska	Provided lab results	Instinct: 5 grain-free	Both	33%-38%; 18%-20%	No	\$2-3/lb.	- Instinct line includes 4 "limited ingredient" foods and 2 "healthy weight" foods, which also contain freeze-dried meat - Prairie line contains whole grains; protein and fat levels are more moderate than Instinct line
			Instinct with Raw Boost: 12 grain-free	Meal, meat and freeze-dried meat	32%-38%; 10%-20%		\$2-3/lb.	
			Prairie: 4	2 use both; 2 use meal	23%-27%; 14%		\$1-2/lb.	
<p><b>NUTRAM</b> <a href="http://www.nutram.com/">(http://www.nutram.com/)</a>                  Elmira, ON                  (844) 234-2464</p>	Self in Ohio	Provided lab results	14; 5 grain-free	Both	22%-36%; 12%-17%	No	?	- Sold in Canada; supposedly sold in U.S., too, but we couldn't find a location

<u><a href="https://www.rijen.ca/">ORIJEN (https://www.rijen.ca/)</a></u> Champion Petfoods Morinville, Alberta (877) 939-0006	Self in Canada	Provided lab results	7 grain-free	Both	38%; 15%-20%	No	\$3-4/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Orijen varieties contain 80% meat</li> <li>- Champion built a new manufacturing facility in Kentucky; food sold in U.S. is made here, food made in Canada is sold there</li> </ul>
<u><a href="http://www.partyanimalpetfood.com/">PARTY ANIMAL (http://www.partyanimalpetfood.com/)</a></u> West Hollywood, CA (855) 727-8926	Co-packed (does not disclose location)	Provided computer models	1	Both	23%; 14%	No	\$2-3/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only one variety offered: Organic chicken (with chicken meal), and several whole organic grains</li> </ul>
<u><a href="http://www.petchefexpress.ca/">PET CHEF EXPRESS (http://www.petchefexpress.ca/)</a></u> New Westminster, BC (604) 916-2433	Co-packed in British Columbia	Provided lab results	1	Meal	25%; 10%	No	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One variety offered: Salmon.</li> <li>- Home-delivered within British Columbia</li> </ul>
<u><a href="http://www.petcurean.com/">PETCUREAN (http://www.petcurean.com/)</a></u> Chilliwack, BC (866) 864-6112	Co-packed in Ontario	Provided lab results	Go!: 11; 3 grain-free	Both	22%-36%; 12%-18%	No	\$2-3/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Go! Fit + Free is grain-free; Sensitivity + Shine and Daily Defense are single-protein foods</li> </ul>
			Now Fresh: 11 grain-free	Meat only	24%-28%; 10%-18%		\$3-4/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Now Fresh foods contain only fresh meats</li> </ul>
			Summit: 4	Meal only	21%-28%; 8%-17%		\$1-2/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lower-cost line Summit is available only in Canada</li> </ul>
			Gather: 3	Meat and dehydrated meat	22%-30%; 11%-15%		>\$6/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gather foods are organic; contain no meals, GMO. Farm-to-bowl approach</li> </ul>
<u><a href="http://www.pinnaclepet.com/">PINNACLE (http://www.pinnaclepet.com/)</a></u> Central Garden & Pet Walnut Creek, CA (866) 500-6286	Self in California	Provided lab results	6 grain-free	Both	27%-42%; 10%-22%	No	\$2-3/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete nutrient analyses are on website</li> <li>- Pinnacle foods contain only one animal protein per variety</li> </ul>
<u><a href="http://www.premiumedgepetfood.com/">PREMIUM EDGE (http://www.premiumedgepetfood.com/)</a></u> Diamond Pet Foods Meta, MO (800) 977-8797	Self in Missouri, California, Arkansas	Provided lab results	6	Both	20%-44%; 8%-15%	Yes, salmonella in 2012	\$1-2/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fresh meat is included in each formula.</li> </ul>
<u><a href="http://www.professionalpluspetfood.com/">PROFESSIONAL+ (http://www.professionalpluspetfood.com/)</a></u> Diamond Pet Foods Meta, MO (800) 342-4808	Self in Missouri, California, Arkansas	Provided lab results	4	Both	21%-26%; 10%-15%	No	\$1-2/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fresh meat is included in each formula.</li> </ul>
<u><a href="http://www.solidgoldpet.com/">SOLID GOLD (http://www.solidgoldpet.com/)</a></u> El Cajon, CA (800) 364-4863	Co-packed (does not disclose location)	Provided lab results	9; 2 grain-free	Most contain both; 2 contain meal only	18%-41%; 9%-20%	Yes, salmonella in May 2012	\$2-3/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highest protein foods are the two grain-free varieties</li> </ul>
<u><a href="http://www.sportdogfood.com/">SPORT DOG FOOD (http://www.sportdogfood.com/)</a></u> Ronkonkoma, NY (631) 662-2185	Co-packed in Texas	Provided lab results	12; 7 grain-free	Meals	20%-30%; 10%-20%	No	\$1-2/lb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many are single-protein, limited ingredient foods</li> <li>- Company angle: direct shipped to you</li> </ul>

<b>TASTE OF THE WILD</b> ( <a href="http://www.tasteofthewildpetfood.com/">http://www.tasteofthewildpetfood.com/</a> ) Diamond Pet Foods Meta, MO (800) 977-8797	Self in Missouri, California, Arkansas	Provided lab results	9; 3 grain-free	Both	25%-32%; 15%-18%	No	\$1-2/lb.	- Taste of the Wild grain-free foods each contain multiple protein sources
<b>TUSCAN NATURAL</b> ( <a href="http://www.tuscannatural.com/">http://www.tuscannatural.com/</a> ) Pyramid Pet Products Las Vegas, NV (888) 408-0895	Co-packed in Kansas	Provided lab results	5; 1 grain-free	3 with meals; 2 with both	21%-35%; 11%-20%	No	>\$3/lb.	- "Simply Pure" varieties are limited-ingredient - Grain-free varieties are high-protein, high-fat
<b>VERUS PET FOODS</b> ( <a href="http://www.veruspetfoods.com/">http://www.veruspetfoods.com/</a> ) Abingdon, MD (888) 828-3787	Co-packed in New York	Provided lab results	8	Meals except for 3 new varieties with both	17%-26%; 8%-16%	No	\$2-3/lb.	- VeRUS says it uses an exclusive 100% guaranteed non-China-sourced vitamin/mineral mix in its foods
<b>WHOLE EARTH FARMS</b> ( <a href="http://www.feedgoodness.com/">http://www.feedgoodness.com/</a> ) Merrick Pet Care (Nestle Purina) Amarillo, TX (800) 323-3353	Self in Texas	Provided lab results	7; 6 grain-free	Both	24%-26%; 8%-13%	No	\$1-2/lb.	- Whole Earth is Merrick's economy line
<b>WELLNESS</b> ( <a href="http://www.wellnesspetfood.com/">http://www.wellnesspetfood.com/</a> ) WellPet Tewksbury, MA (800) 225-0904	Self, in Indiana. TruFood is co-packed in Quebec. Core Air Dried is co-packed in Utah.	Provided lab results	Complete Health: 20; 6 grain-free	Both	22%-32%; 10%-18%	Salmonella in May 2012	\$1-2/lb.	- Complete Health has sub-lines of foods for toy, small and large breeds, as well as food for puppies and seniors
			Core: 7 grain-free	Both	33%-36%; 10%-18%	No	\$2-3/lb.	- Core foods are all grain-free and high in protein, with moderate fat levels
			Simple: 6; 4 grain-free	Both except for one with meat only	21%-29%; 8%-14%	No	\$2-3/lb.	- Simple foods are limited-ingredient diets with a single animal protein in each
			TruFood: 5; 2 grain-free	Both	29%-36%; 15%-17%	No	\$3->\$4/lb.	
<b>ZIGNATURE</b> ( <a href="http://www.zignature.com/">http://www.zignature.com/</a> ) Pets Global Valencia, CA (888) 325-7207	Co-packed in Minnesota	Provided lab results	9; all grain-free	Both	26%-32%; 14%-18%	No	\$1.50-\$3/lb.	- All foods are free of grain, potatoes, and chicken. (Yes, chicken. The company provides alternatives to this very common ingredient)

## Dry Dog Foods Missing from Our Approved Foods List

The companies that are listed below have products that meet our selection criteria based on their ingredients, and each has appeared on our "approved foods" list in the past. This year, when we asked for lab analyses of their products, they either declined, didn't respond, or asked for more time.

A few companies responded with something close to what we wanted. Rather than sending us laboratory test results, they sent us the projections of their products' nutritional content. Virtually every pet food today is formulated with computer software that, given the particulars of the recipe and the ingredient sources, can predict the nutrient values of the finished product. But there are a number of things that can cause the nutrient levels in the food to depart significantly from what was expected. So, we've allowed these computer models for now, but have noted in the list of "Approved Foods" which companies provided us with what we asked for - complete lab analyses of their dog foods.

In the course of collecting this information, we've been told a number of times that these analyses represent a significant financial burden to produce, especially for a small company. Our response is, "You are in the business of making and selling a product that dogs will depend on for their very well-being, and you don't have one lab test result that confirms the diet does actually contain all the nutrients, in appropriate amounts, that dogs are known to require?"

Besides the cost, we can't think of any good reasons that a pet food company wouldn't test its products to ensure they contain the nutrients they are supposed to, in the proper amounts. One would imagine this was done at least once, when each formula was finalized; one would hope that another test is run any time a formula is significantly changed, or the company moves its production to another manufacturer, or has a new supplier of major ingredient/s.

If these companies were producing treats, we probably wouldn't care that they couldn't or wouldn't provide us (and consumers) with nutritional analyses of their products. But their products are labeled, sold, and fed as "complete and balanced" diets for dogs. For many (most?) dogs, dry food is the sole source of their nutrition. What if it turned out that the food you feed your dog doesn't actually contain all the amino acids, fatty acids, vitamins, and minerals that he or she requires for optimum health?

### **Missing from the approved dog foods list:**

Artemis  
Azmira  
Back to Basics (discontinued)  
Bake to Nature  
Blue Buffalo  
ByNature  
California Natural  
Canidae  
Canine Caviar  
Dogswell  
Dr. E's Limited Ingredient  
Drs. Foster & Smith  
Earthborn Holistic  
Evo  
Firstmate  
Great Life (discontinued)  
Health Extension  
Hi-Tek Naturals  
Horizon  
Kasik's  
Leonard Powell Signature  
Life-4K9  
Natural Balance  
Natural Planet  
Newman's Own  
Nutrisource  
Nutro Ultra  
Pioneer Naturals  
Petguard  
PureVita  
SmartPak  
Spring Naturals (discontinued)  
Precise  
Viand  
Zignature

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