



Otonabee Animal Hospital

“Going the distance for you and your pet!”

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March 2014 Newsletter

Food Myths

Below are some common pet food myths & facts for you, mostly courtesy of the Purina Veterinary Diets website. For more detailed information, please visit any of the websites listed.

Myth

- ❖ Grain-free diets are healthier.



- ❖ Gluten-free is healthier.



- ❖ Corn is a poorly digested “filler” that causes allergies.



- ❖ By-products are poor-quality ingredients.



- ❖ Holistic is healthier



Fact

- ❖ Diets containing properly processed grains provide excellent nutrition. Properly processed grains are highly digestible and unlikely to cause allergies. Grains are an important source of fibre and provide energy.
- ❖ Gluten is an excellent source of high quality protein (not to be used as an alternative to meat protein for cats), provides structure & enhances the texture of pet food. GI problems associated with gluten are rare in dogs.
- ❖ Corn is an excellent source of many nutrients. Corn gluten meal is highly digestible. Corn is a high quality ingredient and not a common cause of allergies. However, the quality of corn in pet foods can vary greatly. Remember – it’s the overall quality of the pet food that makes it a good choice for your pet.
- ❖ By-products are any ingredient that is produced or left over when some other product or ingredient is made, and are an excellent source of protein and other nutrients. Muscle meat is deficient in many nutrients, including calcium – many of these missing nutrients are abundant in meat or poultry by-products. Broths & gelatin are examples of meat by-products in human foods.
- ❖ Holistic is a vague term that can have many meanings. Holistic as it refers to pet food is not defined or regulated by any regulatory body.

<http://www.purinaveterinarydiets.com/healthandnutrition/myths/default.aspx>

<http://hillspet.ca/en-ca/index.html>

<http://www.royalcanin.ca/index.php/Your-Pet-s-Nutrition> www.aahanet.org

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