

Where Does Our Meat Come From?

The popularity of fresh-food diets based on raw ingredients is suddenly soaring. This is great news, as it means more pet owners are becoming aware of healthier alternatives to dry, packaged pet foods! Due to this sudden interest, there has been some propaganda circulating, from the FDA, regarding the tendency of some manufacturers to use what is called "4D meat" in their products. This in turn has led to an influx of inquiries from concerned and educated pet owners, who absolutely have the right to be informed about exactly what goes into the food they are feeding their pets.

We want our customers to be assured of the high quality of each and every ingredient that passes through our doors and into our manufacturing facility. All of our meats are USDA inspected and graded for human consumption. We will never use anything "4D" or less than "good enough for humans" to eat, in any of our products!

We are very pleased to be using poultry (both Chicken and Turkey) from Bell and Evans, of Fredericksburg, PA. "The Excellent Chicken" is all-natural, minimally processed, no artificial ingredients, no antibiotics administered, and is fed an all vegetable diet containing no preservatives and no animal by-products. Bell and Evans provides poultry to the Whole Foods grocery chain. You can read more about this supplier, and direct any questions to their representatives, through their website. www.bellandevans.com. We use mainly leg quarters, necks and backs, but occasionally we'll add frames, wings, or whole birds. The ratio of bone to meat is approximately 30-40%. The Calcium:Phosphorous ratio of our Chicken recipe is 1.3:1 for Dogs and 1.7:1 for Cats. The Calcium:Phosphorous ratio of our Turkey recipe is 1.5:1 for Dogs and 1.25:1 for Cats.

Our beef is imported from BSE-free countries such as New Zealand, Argentina, and Australia. These countries raise cattle naturally, with no hormones or antibiotics. The cattle are free-range and grass-fed. The beef we use is in approximately a 95:5 lean:fat ratio. The beef formula is our only recipe that contains no real bones. This is because our equipment is not capable of handling beef bones. Instead, we have included other ingredients rich in calcium to keep the Calcium:Phosphorous ratio where it should be. The ratio is 2:1 in the Dog recipe and 1.8:1 in the Cat recipe.

Our lamb and goat are also imported from New Zealand and Australia. No hormones or antibiotics are used, and they are free-range, grass-fed animals. We also have access to a limited supply of locally raised meat, from a certified organic farm in the state of Maryland. From the lamb, we use the breast, which resembles a rack of ribs, and also the flank, which looks similar but contains no bones. From the goat, we use the entire carcass including bone. All recipes also contain liver and heart from the same animal as the meat and bones. The ratio of bone to meat is approximately 20-30%. The Calcium:Phosphorous ratio of our Lamb recipe is 1.3:1; the Goat recipe is 1.5:1.

The rabbit we use comes from a variety of domestic sources. We do not use Chinese rabbits! The rabbits we use are raised according to strict "natural" standards, with no hormones or antibiotics used. All meat is inspected by USDA and our processors also sell the same meat that we use to restaurants for human consumption. We use the entire rabbit, including bones, as well as liver and heart. We do not use the heads, feet, or intestines. Some interesting facts about rabbit meat: it is all-white meat, very lean (95% fat free), and low cholesterol. Furthermore, the type of fat found in rabbit meat is comparable to that in fish, in terms of the composition of the essential fatty acids. In other words, this is a very "heart-friendly" protein source, and makes a great choice for allergic, overweight or sensitive pets.