

## What kind of food do you feed your pet?

Our doctors are often asked to make recommendations for a high quality pet food. There are so many different diets available, it can be very difficult to know which diets are safe, healthy and appropriately balanced.

We developed this brochure to help alleviate the challenges associated with choosing the right food for your cat. However, every cat, like every human, has different nutritional requirements. It is very important that you work with your veterinarian to determine the nutritional needs for your pet.



When changing your pet's food it is important to switch gradually, as it is easier on your pet's digestive system, and reactions to the new food will generally be less severe. Each change should be gradual with several days between changes. All in all it should take a few weeks. Even a 4-day transition can help avoid digestive upsets.



Cascade Location:  
6730 Cascade Road SE  
Grand Rapids, MI  
(616) 949-0960

Breton Village Location:  
2496 Burton St. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI  
(616) 988-4980



## Our Doctors' Diet Recommendations for Your Cat



(616) 949-0960  
[www.chfa.net](http://www.chfa.net)

## What to look for in a brand?

### Do they employ a Nutritionist?

Appropriate qualifications are either a PhD in Animal Nutrition or Board Certification by the American College of Veterinary Nutrition (ACVN) or the European College of Veterinary Comparative Nutrition (ECVCN).

### Who formulates the diet?

The recipe should be developed by an experienced pet food formulator (MS or PhD in Animal Nutrition). An individual with Board Certification by ACVN or ECVCN may also work in collaboration with pet food formulators to help guide ingredient selection and nutrient levels

### What is the quality control process for ingredients and finished products?

Manufacturers and pet food providers should have adequate quality control to ensure companion animal and owner safety. This should include ingredient validation, final diet nutrient analysis, toxicology, bacteriology, and packaging/shelf-life screenings prior to, during, and after manufacturing.

For more information, visit the WSAVA Global Nutrition Committee website at [wsava.org/global-guidelines/global-nutrition-guidelines](http://wsava.org/global-guidelines/global-nutrition-guidelines)



## Non-Prescription Cat Food Brand Recommendations

- Hill's Science Diet
- Royal Canin
- Purina ProPlan



**Take Note:** The words *natural* and *holistic* have no actual defined meaning or regulation when it comes to labeling a diet. The only term that has an actual definition associated with it is organic. Organic ingredients have been raised and processed without any chemicals, sprays or pesticides.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Should I feed my cat a high protein diet?

Cats are obligate carnivores which means they must eat meat to obtain certain essential amino acids and vitamins. One result of being an obligate carnivore is that they lack the enzymes to metabolize carbohydrates properly. Carbohydrates generally lead to obesity and can predispose cats to diabetes mellitus. We recommend cats be on a high protein, low carbohydrate diet.

### Should I feed my cat a raw diet?

Raw diets are not for everyone. These diets have additional health risks (both cat and human) associated with them. Rarely is a raw diet needed for cats. Please consult with your veterinarian before feeding a raw diet to become educated on the additional risks and how to make sure the diet is balanced.

### Should I feed my cat a diet with a unique protein source?

There are many diets with unique or novel protein sources such as rabbit, venison and bison available. We will use these novel protein sources for cats with medical conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease. However, if a veterinarian has not recommended your cat be on a novel protein diet, we recommend sticking with more common protein sources like chicken, beef or fish

**AAFCO Statement:** Diets formulated to meet Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) guidelines should meet their nutrient profile based on analysis using a nutrient database or on chemical analysis of the finished product. We only recommend feeding diets that comply with AAFCO guidelines.