

The different pet food formats (wet, dry and commercial raw)

When considering a pet food it is important to note that superiority should not be measured on the format of the food but rather its content. For instance, dry food is not consistently superior to wet or vice versa. The PFMA unravel the science.

In terms of which pet food format to feed, this very much comes down to the particular needs and preferences of an individual pet, along with what works well for the owner. Whilst some pets and their owners may prefer a wet food or a commercial raw food, others may prefer dry. This variety is intended to ensure there is something to suit all needs and preferences.

All 'Complete' pet foods for dogs and cats, regardless of format, are carefully formulated to provide all the nutrients a healthy pet needs. Members of the PFMA commit to formulating their diets in line with the FEDIAF Nutritional Guidelines, which detail the nutritional needs of cats and dogs at the varying life stages. These guidelines are peer reviewed by independent veterinary nutrition experts throughout Europe and they are updated to include the latest nutritional science.

Wet Pet Foods:

These include cans, foil trays and pouches and the contents include chunks in gravy, chunks in jelly, casserole and meatloaf formats. Wet pet foods have a high moisture content (approx 70-80%). They are sealed and then cooked at a defined temperature for sterilisation, which ensures safety and helps to maintain quality during shelf life.

Feeding considerations for wet pet foods

1. Wet food can be convenient with single-serve formats ensuring a fresh, easy-to-serve meal each time
2. For hygiene and cleanliness any

3. Pets usually drink less when eating wet foods as there is higher water content than in dry foods
4. Wet foods can be a good option for pets with missing teeth, poorly aligned jaws, or smaller mouths
5. In terms of storage, once opened wet food can be kept for a maximum of up to 5-7 days if stored correctly.



For more in-depth information on proteins and carbohydrates in pet food please refer to their respective factsheets in www.pfma.org.uk/fact-sheets

- The food needs to be covered to minimise air exposure (for instance use a plastic tin lid or a zip-to-close bag) and refrigerated
6. When feeding wet food, the portions will be bigger due to the higher water content
 7. A special consideration for puppies

and large breed dogs: Puppies require a much higher nutrient intake per unit of their weight than an adult dog. Large breeds have proportionately smaller stomachs than standard or small breed dogs. In both these cases, it is possible that with wet food alone, a dog may ▼