Model Regulations for Pet Food and Specialty

Pet Food Under the Model Bill

Section Editor—Stan Cook, MO

These Model Regulations are approved by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) under the Model Bill and in conjunction with the Model Regulations. States proposing to adopt these Model Regulations for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food under their own state feed law are encouraged to adopt AAFCO’s Model Regulations for feed, which also apply to pet food and specialty pet food, unless otherwise noted within these regulations.

Pursuant to due publication and public hearing required by the provisions of Chapter ____ of the Laws of this State, the ____ has adopted the following Rules and Regulations.

Regulation PF1. Definitions and Terms

The definitions in the Model Bill and Model Regulations shall apply in addition to the following:

(a) “All Life Stages” means gestation/lactation, growth, and adult maintenance life stages.

(b) “Family” means a group of products, which are nutritionally adequate for any or all life stages based on their nutritional similarity to a lead product, which has been successfully test-fed according to an AAFCO feeding protocol(s).

(c) “Immediate Container” means the unit, can, box, tin, bag, or other receptacle or covering in which a pet food or specialty pet food is displayed for sale to retail purchasers, but does not include containers used as shipping containers.

(d) “Ingredient Statement” means a collective and contiguous listing on the label of the ingredients of which the pet food or specialty pet food is composed.

(e) “Principal Display Panel” means the part of a label that is most likely to be displayed, presented, shown or examined under normal and customary conditions of display for retail sale.

(f) “Pet Nutrition Facts” is a graphic box located on the label containing nutritional information for a pet food product.

(g) “Specialty Pet Nutrition Facts” is a graphic box located on the label containing nutritional information for a specialty pet food product.

...
Regulation PF2. Label Format and Labeling

(a) Pet food and specialty pet food shall be labeled with the following information prescribed in this Regulation:

(1) Product name and brand name, if any, on the principal display panel as stipulated in Regulation PF3;

(2) A Statement specifying the species name of pet or specialty pet for which the food is intended, conspicuously designated on the principal display panel;

(3) Quantity statement, as defined in Section 3(s) of this Act and Regulation 3(a)(8) of the Model Regulations, by weight (pounds and ounces, and metric), liquid measure (quarts, pints and fluid ounces, and metric) or by count, on the principal display panel;

(4) Pet Nutrition Facts or Specialty Pet Nutrition Facts as stipulated in Regulation PF4;

...
percentages of crude fiber, moisture and ash (determined in the
same manner as CP and CF); or

ii In accordance with a testing procedure established by AAFCO.

D. An affidavit shall be provided upon the request of _____,
substantiating that the calorie content was determined by:

i Regulation PF4(a)(1)(C)(i) in which case the summary data
used in the calculation shall be included in the affidavit; or

ii Regulation PF4(a)(1)(C)(ii) in which case the summary data
used in the determination of calorie content shall accompany
the affidavit.

E. The calorie content statement shall appear as one of the following:

i The heading “Calories per (familiar household unit)” on the
label or other labeling shall be followed parenthetically by the
word “calculated” when the calorie content is determined in
accordance with Regulation PF4(a)(1)(C)(i); or

ii The heading “Calories per (familiar household unit)” on the
label or other labeling shall be followed parenthetically by the
word “fed” when the calorie content is determined in
accordance with Regulation PF4(a)(1)(C)(ii).

F. Below the calorie content statement, the number of calories
contributed by Protein, Fat and Carbohydrate shall be declared
after the heading “From:” in kcal.

(3) The “Guaranteed Amount” values shall be listed in the following order
and the format shown in PF4(j) unless otherwise specified in these
Regulations:

A. A pet food label shall list the following required guaranteed
amounts based upon the following tests;

i Protein is minimum percentage of crude protein

ii Fat is minimum percentage of crude fat;

iii Total Carbohydrate is maximum percentage equal to [100 –
(Crude Protein + Crude Fat + Moisture + Ash)] (designated on
small packages as Carb);

iv Dietary Fiber is maximum percentage of total dietary fiber
(designated on small packages as Fiber);

v Moisture is maximum percentage of moisture; and

vi Maximum percentage of crude fat shall be listed as Fat Max
between Fat Min and Total Carbohydrate if required by
Regulation PF 9;

vii Additional required or voluntary guarantees shall follow
moisture.

B. When ash is listed in the guaranteed amount on a pet food label, it
shall be guaranteed as a maximum percentage and shall
immediately follow moisture.

C. When listed on the label of a dog or cat food product, guarantees
for dietary starch and sugars shall be stated as maximum
guaranteed amounts. Neither guaranteed amount shall be listed
without the other. The guaranteed amount for dietary starch shall
follow dietary fiber. The guaranteed amount for sugars shall
follow dietary starch.

D. A dog or cat food label shall list other additional required or
voluntary guaranteed amounts in the same order and units of the
nutrients in the AAFCO Dog (or Cat) Food Nutrient Profiles following ash, if also listed, or moisture if ash is not listed.

Guaranteed amounts for substances not listed in the AAFCO Dog (or Cat) Food Nutrient Profiles, or not otherwise provided for in these Regulations, shall immediately follow the listing of the recognized nutrients and shall be accompanied by an asterisk referring to the disclaimer “not recognized as an essential nutrient by the AAFCO Dog (or Cat) Food Nutrient Profiles.” The disclaimer shall appear immediately after the last such guaranteed amount in the same size type as the guarantees.

(4) The “Amount of Nutrient per Familiar Household Unit” for each “Guaranteed Amount” is determined by multiplying the Guaranteed Amount percentage by the number of grams in the familiar household unit. On large packages, this can be found in the upper right (C). On small packages, this is the weight in grams of the container.

(b) A Specialty Pet Nutrition Facts box shall be displayed in a prominent place on the label of all specialty pet foods, but not necessarily on the PDP, utilizing the format displayed in PF4(k) in black type with white background under the heading “Specialty Pet Nutrition Facts.” The box contains the following required elements:

(1) The unit of familiar household unit and its weight in grams

(2) The “Guaranteed Amount” values shall be listed in the following order and format shown in in PF4(k) unless otherwise specified in these Regulations:

A. A specialty pet food label shall list the following required guaranteed amounts based upon the following tests;

i Protein is minimum percentage of crude protein

ii Fat is minimum percentage of crude fat;

iii Total Carbohydrate is maximum percentage equal to \[100 - (\text{Crude Protein} + \text{Crude Fat} + \text{Moisture} + \text{Ash})\] (designated on small packages as Carb);

iv Dietary Fiber is maximum percentage of total dietary fiber (designated on small packages as Fiber); and

v Moisture is maximum percentage of moisture;

vi Additional required or voluntary guarantees shall follow moisture.

B. When ash is listed in the guaranteed amount on a specialty pet food label, it shall be guaranteed as a maximum percentage and shall immediately follow moisture.

C. A specialty pet food label shall list other additional required or voluntary guaranteed amounts in the same order and units of the nutrients in an AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile for the specific species; however, if no species-specific AAFCO- recognized nutrient profile is available, the order and units shall follow the same order and units of nutrients in the AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profile following ash, if also listed, or moisture if ash is not listed.

Guaranteed amounts for substances not listed in an AAFCO recognized nutrient profile for the specific species of animal shall immediately follow the listing of recognized nutrients and shall be accompanied by an asterisk referring to the disclaimer “not recognized as an essential nutrient by the ________.” (Blank is to
be completed by listing the specific AAFCO recognized nutrient profile. This disclaimer shall appear immediately after the last such guaranteed amount in the same size type as the guarantees. No such disclaimer shall be required unless an AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile is available for the specific species of specialty pet.

(3) The “Amount of Nutrient per Familiar Household Unit” for each “Guaranteed Amount” is determined by multiplying the Guaranteed Amount percentage by the number of grams in the familiar household unit. On large packages, this can be found in the upper right (C). On small packages, this is the weight in grams of the container.

(c) The sliding scale method of expressing a guaranteed amount on a pet food or specialty pet food label (for example, “Protein 15–18% Min”) is prohibited.

(d) The Pet Nutrition Facts or Specialty Pet Nutrition Facts box of a pet food or a specialty pet food which is formulated as and represented to be a mineral supplement shall include:

(1) Minimum guaranteed amounts for all minerals from sources declared in the ingredient statement and established by an AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile, expressed as the element in units specified in the nutrient profile; or

(2) Minimum guaranteed amounts for all minerals from sources declared in the ingredient statement expressed as the element in units specified in the AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profiles when no species-specific nutrient profile has been recognized by AAFCO; and provided that

(3) Mineral guaranteed amounts required by Regulation PF4 (d)(1) and (2) may be expressed in units consistent with the AAFCO nutrient profiles and in milligrams (mg) per unit (e.g., tablets, capsules, granules, or liquids) consistent with those employed in the quantity statement and directions for use; and

(e) The Pet Nutrition Facts or Specialty Pet Nutrition Facts box of a pet food or a specialty pet food which is formulated as and represented to be a vitamin supplement shall include:

(1) Minimum guaranteed amounts for all vitamins from sources declared in the ingredient statement and established by an AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile, expressed in units specified in the nutrient profile; or

(2) Minimum guaranteed amounts for all vitamins from sources declared in the ingredient statement expressed in units specified in the AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profiles when no species-specific nutrient profile has been recognized by AAFCO; and provided that

(3) Vitamin guaranteed amounts required by Regulation PF4(e)(1) and (2), may be expressed in units consistent with the AAFCO nutrient profiles and in approved units (e.g., IU, mg, g) per unit (e.g., tablets, capsules, granules, or liquids) consistent with those employed in the quantity statement and directions for use; and

(f) When the label of a pet food or specialty pet food includes a comparison of the nutrient content of the food with levels established by an AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile such as a table of comparison, a percentage, or any other designation referring to an individual nutrient or all of the nutrient levels, the following apply:

(1) The product shall meet the AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile; and
The statement of comparison shall be preceded by a statement that the product meets the AAFCO-recognized profile: however, the statement that the product meets the AAFCO-recognized nutrient profile is not required provided that the nutritional adequacy statement as per Regulation PF7(a)(1) or PF7(b)(2)(A) appears elsewhere on the product label; and

The statement of comparison of the nutrient content shall constitute a guarantee, but need not be repeated in the guaranteed amount column; and

The statement of comparison may appear on the label separate and apart from the guaranteed amount column.

The maximum moisture declared on a pet food or specialty pet food label shall not exceed 78.00% or the natural moisture content of the ingredients, whichever is higher. However, pet food and specialty pet food such as, but not limited to, those consisting principally of stew, gravy, sauce, broth, aspic, juice, or a milk replacer, and which are so labeled, may contain moisture in excess of 78.00%.

Guarantees for protein, fat, total carbohydrate and dietary fiber are not required when the pet food or specialty pet food is intended for purposes other than to furnish these substances or they are of minor significance relative to the primary purpose of the product, such as a mineral or vitamin supplement.

Guaranteed amounts for microorganisms and enzymes shall be stated in the format as stipulated in Model Regulations 4(g) and (h). The “Amount of Nutrient per Familiar Household Unit” column should be left blank. For enzymes, the explanation of activity units should follow the disclaimer within the box.

Pet Nutrition Facts Formatting Guide:

Minimum requirement for packages with a total printable area greater than or equal to 40 square inches.
area less than 40 square inches (small packages).

Sample format for packages with a total printable area greater than or equal to 40 square inches with voluntary guaranteed amounts per PF4 or required additional guaranteed amounts per PF9.

Sample format for packages with a total printable area less than 40 square inches with voluntary guaranteed amounts per PF4 or required additional guaranteed amounts per PF9.

Key for Generic Pet Nutrition Facts Box.
Note: Letters below correspond to white letters in black circles located on the facts box examples above.

(A) Familiar household unit, for example 1 can, 1 tray, 1 pouch, 1 unit of product (treat, piece, etc.), 1 cup, 1 teaspoon.

(B) If unit cited in A needs explanation, provide within the parentheses, for example: “1 cup (8 oz. Standard Measuring Cup).” If no explanation is needed, this element is not required.

(C) Weight in grams of familiar household unit cited in A. In cases of non-uniform products that are reported per piece, indicate the average weight and add “(avg)” after the weight.

(D) Insert “calculated” or “fed” within the parentheses as appropriate per PF4(a)(2)(E) i or ii.

(E) Insert value per PF4(a)(2)(C).

(F) Insert number of kilocalories contributed by protein as determined by PF4(a)(2)(C).

(G) Insert number of kilocalories contributed by fat as determined by PF4(a)(2)(C).

(H) Insert number of kilocalories contributed by carbohydrate as determined by PF4(a)(2)(C).

(J) Insert a second row for Fat, with guaranteed maximum amount if required by Regulation PF9.

(K) Dietary Fiber shall be indented on the line below Total Carbohydrate. Insert rows with the same indentation following Dietary Fiber when Dietary Starch and Sugars is provided.

(L) Insert a row following moisture when a guaranteed amount for ash is provided.

(M) Insert row(s) for other additional required or voluntary guarantees listed as essential nutrients under a double bolded line per PF4(a)(3)(D).

(N) Insert rows for voluntary guarantees for non-essential nutrients per PF4(a)(3)(D).

(O) This disclaimer is only required when guaranteed amounts for non-essential nutrients are included per PF4(a)(3)(C) or (D).
(P) Insert “Cat” or “Dog” as appropriate to intended use of product.

(Q) Insert appropriate guaranteed amounts as specified in PF4(a)(3)(A) i – v

(R) For small packages only, insert appropriate value determined by multiplying the decimal equivalent of guaranteed amount by the total weight contained in A (ie for a guaranteed amount of 23% and a weight in grams in A of 30, move the decimal on the percent value two places to the left (0.23) and multiply by the weight of the familiar household unit (30) to get a 6.9 value for R).

(S) Insert appropriate value determined by multiplying the decimal equivalent of guaranteed amount by the value cited in C. (ie for a guaranteed amount of 23% and a weight in grams in C of 90, move the decimal on the percent value two places to the left (0.23) and multiply by the weight of the familiar household unit (90) to get 20.7 value for S).

(T) The guaranteed amount shall be listed according to the same units of the nutrients in the AAFCO Dog (or Cat) Food Nutrient Profiles.

(U) Calculate value per T. Report in grams per familiar household unit for guaranteed amounts that are percentages as per calculation shown in S. When other units are used, report as appropriate (e.g. for a guaranteed amount in IU/kg report in IU, for a guaranteed amount in mg/kg report in mg, etc).

(V) The guaranteed amount shall be reported in units consistent with intended use (e.g. percentage, mg/kg, etc.). Guarantees for microorganisms and enzymes shall be stated in the format as stipulated in model reg. 4(g) and 4(h).

(W) Calculate value per V. Report in grams per familiar household unit for guaranteed amounts that are percentages as per calculation shown in S. When other units are used, report as appropriate (e.g. for a guaranteed amount in IU/kg report in IU, for a guaranteed amount in mg/kg report in mg, etc.).

(X) Provide an explanation of enzyme units, if necessary.
(k) Specialty Pet Nutrition Facts Formatting Guide:

Minimum requirement for packages with a total printable area greater than or equal to 40 square inches.

[IMAGE 5]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrients</th>
<th>Guaranteed Amount</th>
<th>Amount of Nutrient Per</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>% Min</td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>% Min</td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Carbohydrate</td>
<td>% Max</td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietary Fiber</td>
<td>% Max</td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture</td>
<td>% Max</td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimum requirement for packages with a total printable area less than 40 square inches (small packages).

[IMAGE 6]

Sample format for packages with a total printable area greater than or equal to 40 square inches with voluntary guaranteed amounts per PF4.

[IMAGE 7]
Sample format for packages with a total printable area less than 40 square inches with voluntary guaranteed amounts per PF4.

[IMAGE 8]

Key for Generic Specialty Pet Nutrition Facts Box.

Note: Letters below correspond to white letters in black circles conveniently located on the facts box examples above.

(A) Familiar household unit, for example 1 can, 1 tray, 1 pouch, 1 unit of product (treat, piece, etc.), 1 cup, 1 teaspoon.

(B) If unit cited in A needs explanation, provide within the parentheses, for example: “1 cup (8 oz. Standard Measuring Cup).” If no explanation is needed, this element is not required.

(C) Weight in grams of familiar household unit cited in A. In cases of non-uniform products that are reported per piece, indicate the average weight and add “(avg)” after the weight.

(K) Insert a row following moisture when a guaranteed
amount for ash is provided.

(L) Insert row(s) for other required or voluntary guarantees listed as essential nutrients under a double bolded line per PF4(b)(2)(C)

(Q) Insert appropriate guaranteed amounts as specified in PF4(b)(2)(A) i – v.

(R) For small packages only, insert appropriate value determined by multiplying the decimal equivalent of guaranteed amount by the total weight contained in A (ie for a guaranteed amount of 23% and a weight in grams in A of 30, move the decimal on the percent value two places to the left (0.23) and multiply by the weight of the familiar household unit (30) to get a 6.9 value for R).

(S) Insert appropriate value determined by multiplying the decimal equivalent of guaranteed amount by the value cited in C. (ie for a guaranteed amount of 23% and a weight in grams in C of 90, move the decimal on the percent value two places to the left (0.23) and multiply by the weight of the familiar household unit (90) to get 20.7 value for S).

(T) The guaranteed amount shall be listed according to the same units of the nutrients required in PF(b)(2)(C).

(U) Calculate value per T. Report in grams per familiar household unit for guaranteed amounts that are percentages as per calculation shown in S. When other units are used, report as appropriate (e.g. for a guaranteed amount in IU/kg report in IU, for a guaranteed amount in mg/kg report in mg, etc).

(V) The guaranteed amount shall be reported in units consistent with intended use (e.g. percentage, mg/kg, etc.). Guarantees for microorganisms and enzymes shall be stated in the format as stipulated in model reg. 4(g) and 4(h).

(W) Calculate value per V. Report in grams per familiar household unit for guaranteed amounts that are percentages as per calculation shown in S. When other units are used, report as appropriate (e.g. for a guaranteed amount in IU/kg report in IU, for a guaranteed amount in mg/kg report in mg, etc.).
Provide an explanation of enzyme units, if necessary.