

PET FOOD SURVEY MARCH 2018

- We sent the survey to the 58 laboratories in the program.
- 20 Laboratories responded.

Currently, rounds are planned to provide one plant protein source, one animal protein source, and two energy sources annually. Does this planning meet the needs of your laboratory?"

- We would like to see additional rounds per year, that includes at least one dry finished pet food and one wet finished pet food. Additionally a semi-moist "treat" product would be preferred as well. Two animal protein sources would be preferred as well as a mineral/vitamin premix would be useful.
- More animal protein or a kibble would be better.

What pet food ingredients would you like to see offered in future rounds?

- There aren't specific ingredients that are missing from the scheme, however due to the frequency of rounds there are some ingredients that are not tested very often. Increasing the number of rounds would allow vital items like chicken meal, soybean meal, wheat, corn, etc. to be part of the scheme more often.
- Dog, Cat, Fish in feed
- Meals, fats, kibble
- We would like to see dried distillers grains with solubles
- Fish, Meat & Bone
- Soy, dairy (milk replacer)
- Current round is satisfactory

What pet food ingredients would you like to see offered in future rounds?

- Premix or supplement
- None
- Finished Pet Treats.
- I'm not sure. We have only received 1 sample so far.
- I would like to have a cat food offered annually. Currently it has only been every 2 years, which makes it difficult to measure the higher levels of Taurine.
- Ingredients that may would be used in "non-traditional" pet foods or treats.

Have the appropriate analytes/methods been addressed in the scheme?

- While many methods are covered, there are several additional methods we would like to see for relevant sample types. Methods such as peroxide value and other oxidation markers, biogenic amines (index), synthetic and natural antioxidants, degree of starch gelatinization.
- It would be nice in about a year or two's time to include possibly some intentional contaminants like salmonella or lysteria.

Do you purchase Pet Food Quality Reference Materials (QRMs)?

- Once or twice a year when a QRM is especially relevant.
- In the past we have purchased in bulk, about once per year
- once per year
- as needed
- Less than once per year - we order a lot at a time so it lasts us a long time.
- Not as often as a medicated feed. Actually not yet.

Do you have any additional comments about the program that you would like to share?

- Program is working well, just having a larger number of rounds and methods would be nice. Maybe have two pet food schemes, one that has a large number of rounds (10-12 per year) and maybe one that has just half of those rounds so that cost efficiency is still there labs that don't need as many rounds, but labs that do want more rounds have the option to participate at a increased cost.
- We have two samples or round per year.
- Needs to be more than one cross over sample with your general scheme as when it is just pet food we don't get enough participants in our categories to make the information valuable.
- Not at this time.
- No

Do you have any additional comments about the program that you would like to share?

- In the past some of the scheme have had mercury included. The mercury levels are so high they are not necessarily realistic for contamination testing and we have to do a preliminary analysis to determine if we will analyze the samples for mercury or not. Most of the time we do NOT analyze since the mercury levels are well above our calibration range and usually tends to contaminate our instrument.
- The leadership has done an excellent job and the sample prep lab does an excellent job!