



Pet Food Ingredient Definitions

First is listed the official AAFCO definition. (AAFCO stands for the definition given by the Association of American Feed Control Officials.) This is followed by a little more information about why feed manufactures do or do not use it.

- **Animal Fat - AAFCO** - *Animal Fat is obtained from the tissues of mammals and/or poultry in the commercial process of rendering or extracting.*
 - This is a byproduct of meat meal processing. The origin of the contributing animals is never known, and the resulting oil is very low in linoleic acid -- an essential fatty acid that is important for skin and coat health. It is also, of course, cooked – which by its very nature renders the fat less usable.
- **Beet Pulp (Sugar) - CONTROVERSIAL - AAFCO** - *Beet Pulp is the dried residue from sugar beets which has been cleaned and extracted in the process of manufacturing sugar.*
 - Many pet foods use it because - "it as a good source of fiber and a stool hardener".
 - Others do not because they believe it is: "Added to pet food to slow down the transition of rancid animal fats (think toxic waste). This holds the waste in. Kidneys and liver work overtime. Dogs may chew their lower backs. Feet may swell, so the dogs lick their feet. Sugar is a contributing factor to ear infections and cataracts".
 - Beet pulp is rather controversial, many think that it is an excellent additive and source of fiber and that all sugar has been completely extracted before being added as a pet food ingredients. If this is the only "problem" ingredient in a kibble, other factors will have to help you decide.
- **Beef Tallow - AAFCO** - *Beef Tallow is obtained from the tissue of cattle in the commercial process of rendering.*
 - Although this is a very palatable source of fat, it is low in linoleic acid, which is necessary for skin and coat health"
 - Wendy Volhard in "The Holistic Guide for a Healthy Dog" also shows that beef tallow is a saturated fat whose main purpose is flavoring and palatability of food. Linoleic acid is a polyunsaturated fat and the acid should constitute about 1% of diet.
- **Brewers Rice - AAFCO** - *Brewer's Rice is the small milled fragments of rice kernels that have been separated from the larger kernels of milled rice.*
 - Better foods will not use it because they state it is a "lower quality rice product that is



- missing many of the nutrients found in Ground Rice and Ground Brown Rice."
 - Also know as 'the sweepings from the floor of the mill'.
- **Chicken By-Products - AAFCO - *Chicken By-Products consist of the rendered, clean parts of the carcass of slaughtered chicken, such as necks, beaks, feet, undeveloped eggs, and intestines -- exclusive of feathers except in such amounts as might occur unavoidably in good processing practices.***
 - An inconsistent ingredient because of the multiple organs used and their constantly changing proportions. Chicken By-Products are much less expensive and less digestible than Chicken Meal.
- **Corn Gluten Meal - AAFCO - *Corn Gluten Meal is the dried residue from corn after the removal of the larger part of the starch and germ, and the separation of the bran by the process employed in the wet milling manufacture of corn starch or syrup, or by enzymatic treatment of the endosperm.***
 - A fractionated product - one of the reasons for pet allergies is the petroleum residue left in corn after the separation of corn oil from the seed.
 - Some foods use it because "Corn Gluten Meal is a plant protein source that is low in ash. It is used in Natura cat foods to balance the natural ash in chicken."
- **Ground Corn - AAFCO - *Ground Corn is the entire corn kernel, ground or chopped.***
 - Many good foods do not use ground corn since: "Although Ground Corn is a good quality source of carbohydrates, it is thought to be the #3 common cause of food allergies in pets.
 - Corn is not actually the allergen. Petroleum residue (see corn gluten meal) and aflatoxins due to molds are. The great majority of corn used in pet foods is from grain not acceptable for human use.
 - Tested chemical and mold free corn is an excellent source of protein and amino acids and is used to balance the ash in chicken. Dynamite uses organic corn in its pet food.
- **Poultry By Product Meal - AAFCO - *Poultry By-Product Meal consists of the ground, rendered, clean parts of the carcass of slaughtered poultry, such as necks, beaks, feet, undeveloped eggs, and intestines -- exclusive of feathers except in such amounts as might occur unavoidably in good processing practices.***
 - Most better foods that it is an "Inconsistent ingredient because of the multiple organs used and their constantly changing proportions. The origin is from any fowl (turkeys, ducks, geese, buzzards, etc.) instead of a single source, like chicken. Poultry By-Product Meal is much less expensive and less digestible than Chicken Meal."
- **Rice Bran - AAFCO - *Rice Bran is the outer coating of the rice kernel, with little or none of the starchy part of the germ.***
 - Better foods reject it because it is "an inexpensive source of fiber that is considered a filler ingredient", i.e. devoid of nutrient value.



- **Rice Flour - AAFCO** - *Rice Flour consists principally of the soft, finely ground and bolted meal obtained from milling rice (containing essentially the starch and gluten of the endosperm) together with fine particles of rice bran and the offal from the 'tail of the mill.'*
 - Not used by better foods because it is a highly pre-processed ingredient. All of the naturally occurring vitamins have been leached out by the processing. Ground Rice with its natural nutrients intact is preferable."

- **Rice Gluten (Glue) - AAFCO** - *Rice Gluten Meal is the dried residue from rice after the removal of the larger part of the starch and germ, and the separation of the bran by the process employed in the wet milling manufacture of rice starch or syrup, or by enzymatic treatment of the endosperm.*
 - Rice Gluten Meal is a poor quality protein filler. The 'Crude Protein' analysis on pet food labels is only a measurement of the amount of nitrogen in a food -- not the quality of the protein. Because of this, pet food companies can use the cheaper by-products of human food production, such as Rice Gluten Meal. Meat is always the best source of quality protein. Meat protein is better absorbed and retained and is higher in essential amino acids like methionine, arginine, and taurine. Rice Gluten Meal has a biologic value less than 50% of Chicken Meal.
 - Solid Gold states that any gluten is "Added to pet food to slow down the transition of rancid animal fats (think toxic waste). This holds the waste in. Kidneys and liver work overtime. Dogs may chew their lower backs. Feet may swell, so the dogs lick their feet.

- **Sorghum - AAFCO** - *Sorghum is the ground grain of the sorghum plant.*
 - Although sorghum is good source of carbohydrates, it is low in digestibility. Think bulkier, cheaper foods. Feed more, get less.

- **Soybean Meal - AAFCO** - *Soybean Meal is the product obtained by grinding the flakes which remain after removal of most of the oil from soybeans by a solvent or mechanical extraction process.*
 - Poor quality protein filler. The 'Crude Protein' analysis on pet food labels is only a measurement of the amount of nitrogen in a food -- not the quality of the protein. Because of this, pet food companies can use the cheaper by-products of human food production, such as Soybean Meal. Meat is always the best source of quality protein. Meat protein is better absorbed and retained and is higher in essential amino acids like methionine, arginine, and taurine. Soybean Meal has a biologic value less than 50% of Chicken Meal.
 - Some allege that soybeans are the #1 allergy of dogs." This goes back to the fact that soybean oil is separated from the meal by petroleum distillation. The meal is very high in petroleum residue which toxifies the liver and kidneys - leading to allergies.

