



# Myths About Pets and Pet Foods

**MYTH:** Dogs are carnivores

**TRUTH:** Taxonomic Order Carnivora, in name only

Dietary Classification Omnivore

- ✓ Anatomy
- ✓ Behavior
- ✓ Feeding preference
- ✓ Ability to eat/remain healthy on a diet consisting of both plant and animal foods

**MYTH:** Cats should not eat carbohydrates because they are carnivores.

**TRUTH:** Taxonomic Order Carnivora  
✓ High dietary protein requirements

### Nutritional Requirements

- ✓ Many studies have proven cats can readily digest and use carbohydrates

**MYTH:** Cats should not eat carbohydrates because of the risk for diabetes.

**TRUTH:** Currently no evidence of direct cause and effect between carbohydrate intake and diabetes in cats. Studies have shown that some of the risks for feline diabetes include having an inactive lifestyle and being overweight.

In fact, because of relatively increased amounts of protein, phosphorus, and fat, some low-carbohydrate foods may not be ideal for diabetic cats with other health concerns such as kidney disease, and liver disease.

**MYTH:** Natural means organic.

**TRUTH:** Natural and organic are not interchangeable. Use of the term “natural” requires a pet food to consist of only natural ingredients without chemical alterations.

**MYTH:**

Corn is a filler, is hard to digest, and is a major cause of allergies in pets.

<TRUTH >

### Essential Nutrients

Fillers add no nutrients. Corn provides pets with:

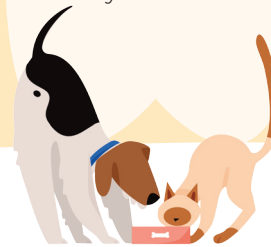
- Protein
- Carbohydrates
- Essential fatty acids
- Antioxidants

### Highly Digestible

Grinding and cooking can increase corn’s digestibility so that pets can easily absorb key nutrients.

### Not a Top Allergen

True food allergies are quite rare in pets. Yet, corn has been implicated in fewer food allergy cases than other common protein sources such as beef, dairy products, wheat, chicken, egg, lamb, or soy.



**MYTH:** Grain-free food is better than foods containing grains.

**TRUTH:** Grain-free foods are not necessarily better than foods containing grains. Discuss your preference with your veterinary team to learn more about whether this an appropriate food option for your unique pet.

- These are by-products:
  - Organs
  - Beet pulp (dried sugar beet residue)
  - Tomato pomace (skin, seeds, pulp)

Many by-products such as meat by-products provide excellent nutritional value compared to non-by-product counterparts.

**MYTH:**

*Pet foods containing ingredients listed as “by-products” are inferior.*

**MYTH:** Reading the ingredient list is the best way to assess the suitability of a pet food.

**TRUTH:** Appropriate amounts of precisely formulated nutrients are just as important as ingredients. In fact, focusing on ingredients alone puts all the attention on before the pet food gets made, not after. Pet food ingredients are listed in descending order, based upon their weight prior to processing. Thus, relying on an ingredient list does not provide an accurate representation of how much of an ingredient your pet is actually consuming.

**TRUTH:**

- A by-product is simply something produced in the making of something else. For example, when you boil chicken, the leftover broth could be considered a by-product.