

How important is it to feed a good food to my pet?

The short answer is---VERY important.

The longer answer is that feeding a good quality food with a good balance of nutrition and quality items that make up the food are essential for proper growth of the pet. Nutrition is as important for your pets as it is for you. Since you are what you eat, you cannot make a healthy body without eating healthy food.

Is food that is not labeled “natural” or “organic”, or one that has corn in it bad for my pet?

The short answer is “no.” Food companies like Hill’s, Purina, Waltham, Royal Canin have been producing pet food for a long time and in that time, they have put millions of dollars into research to make their food a good and continually improving product. Many of these new and organic food companies have little research to back up their diet claims of having a better food. Second, many organic and natural foods claim that “fillers” like corn and chicken and meat by-products are bad things. A by-product of soybeans is vitamin E, an important vitamin for our pets. Many of the meat meals consist of internal organs—these are highly digestible and an important part of a carnivore’s diet. Corn is a “natural” ingredient that is filled with readily digestible carbohydrates and essential fatty acids for the animal. Many of the organic and natural foods contain raw meat. This is potentially dangerous for many reasons—it can contain parasites and harmful bacteria that can harm your pet and it is not precisely balanced for your pet. Always remember to ask yourself what is “natural”? Corn and by-products are still natural.

Always look for the AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials, www.aaafco.org) seal on your foods.