

EVALUATING HOME-PREPARED DIET RECIPES FOR DOGS

Evaluation of Published Recipes for Canine Maintenance Diets

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Lay abstract:

Pet nutrition has been a topic with growing interest in recent years, as many owners understand the connection between nutrition and their pet's health. Many owners choose to prepare their pets' diets themselves for different reasons such as distrust in commercial pet food companies, or a desire to have more control over their pet's diet. Recipes for home-prepared pet food are widely available in media such as the internet, magazines, and books. Previous studies have shown that many home-prepared diets are not nutritionally balanced which may lead to detrimental effects when fed for extended periods of time. The current study aims to be the first large scale study to evaluate the nutritional adequacy and balance of published recipes for home-prepared diets for dogs. Computer software will be used to assess 200 recipes, while laboratory methods will be used to analyze 15 of the diets prepared as directed by the recipes. The results of these evaluations will allow comparisons with canine requirements for essential nutrients and an assessment of the adequacy of these recipes.