

**AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION**  
**(Amended After Comments)**

**12 KAR 3:027. Ingredients.**

RELATES TO: KRS 250.501, 250.521

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 250.521(1)(c), 250.571(1)

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: This certifies that this administrative regulation complies with the requirements of 2025 RS HB 6, Section 8.

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 250.571(1) authorizes the Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station to promulgate administrative regulations necessary for efficient enforcement of KRS 250.491 to 250.631. KRS 250.521(1)(c) requires that a commercial feed label list the common or usual name of each ingredient used in the manufacture of a commercial feed, unless the director promulgates an administrative regulation permitting the use of a collective term for a group of ingredients. This administrative regulation establishes the required format for listing ingredients on the label of pet foods and specialty pet foods.

Section 1. Each ingredient of a pet food or specialty pet food shall be listed in the ingredient statement as established in subsections (1) through (4) of this section.

(1) The names of all ingredients in the ingredient statement shall be shown in letters or type of the same size, style, and color, except where the defined name of the ingredient includes genus and species (e.g., microorganisms) which may be shown in italics;

(2) The ingredients shall be listed in descending order by their predominance by weight in non-quantitative terms, except if the ingredient is a vitamin and/or mineral premix, the premix may be declared in order of predominance by the name "vitamins" or "minerals," as appropriate, followed by a parenthetical listing of all the vitamins and/or minerals in the premix, each in their order of predominance by weight as listed on the ingredient statement of the premix label;

(3) Ingredients shall be listed and identified by the name and definition established by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) Official Common or Usual Names and Definitions of Feed Ingredients, incorporated by reference in 12 KAR 3:012 except any ingredient for which no AAFCO ingredient name exists shall be identified by the common or usual name;

(4) Any ingredient suitable for use in pet food or specialty pet food for which there is a codified standard of identity in Title 9 or 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations shall be declared in accordance with the applicable regulation, which includes the name of the standardized food followed by a parenthetical listing of its ingredients, if necessary, as provided in the regulation;

(5) The ingredients "meat," "poultry," "poultry by-products," or "meat by-products" shall be qualified to designate the animal from which the ingredients are derived unless the meat or meat by-products are derived from cattle, swine, sheep, goats, or any combination thereof or the poultry or poultry meal are derived from chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guineas, ratites, or squabs, or any combination thereof. For example, ingredients derived from deer shall be listed as "venison" or "venison by-products";

(6) For ingredients consisting of fish, "fish meal," or "fish by-products," the name of the ingredient may include "fish" without further specification of the type of the fish or if it bears a name descriptive of its kind (e.g., "ocean whitefish" or by using the acceptable market name(s) or common name (but not any vernacular or slang names) of the individual fish species in the ingredient as established by the FDA Seafood List), it must correspond thereto; and

(7) For purposes of ingredient labeling of pet food or specialty pet food, the ingredient "sugar" shall refer to sucrose, which is obtained from sugar cane or sugar beets in accordance with the provisions in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations. For all other labeling purposes outside the ingredient list, the term "sugar" shall be synonymous with "sugars" as defined in the Official Feed Terms.

Section 2. Brand or trade names shall not be used in the ingredient statement. Reference to quality or grade of the ingredient shall not appear in the ingredient statement.

Section 3. If properly used as specified by the USDA National Organic Program (7 CFR Part 205), the term "organic" does not apply to Section 3 of this regulation.

Section 4. A reference to the nature, form, or other attribute of an ingredient shall be allowed in the ingredient statement when that attribute imparts a distinctive characteristic to the pet food or specialty pet food.

Section 5. Any reference to the percentage or combination of ingredients, by symbol or word, in the brand or product name or elsewhere on a pet food or specialty pet food, shall be based in relation to the total weight of all ingredients in the product.

(1) The names of the ingredient(s) shall appear in order of predominance by weight in the product, provided that names of flavors due to their varying intensity can be in any order.

(2) Where water sufficient for processing is excluded from the declared percentage, the exclusion of water shall be indicated in words juxtaposed to, the same style and color print, and at least one-half the print size of the stated percentage (e.g., "95% beef exclusive of water" or "95 percent chicken and liver exclusive of water").

*DR. JAMES MATTHEWS, Director of Agricultural Experiment Station*

APPROVED BY AGENCY: January 13, 2026

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