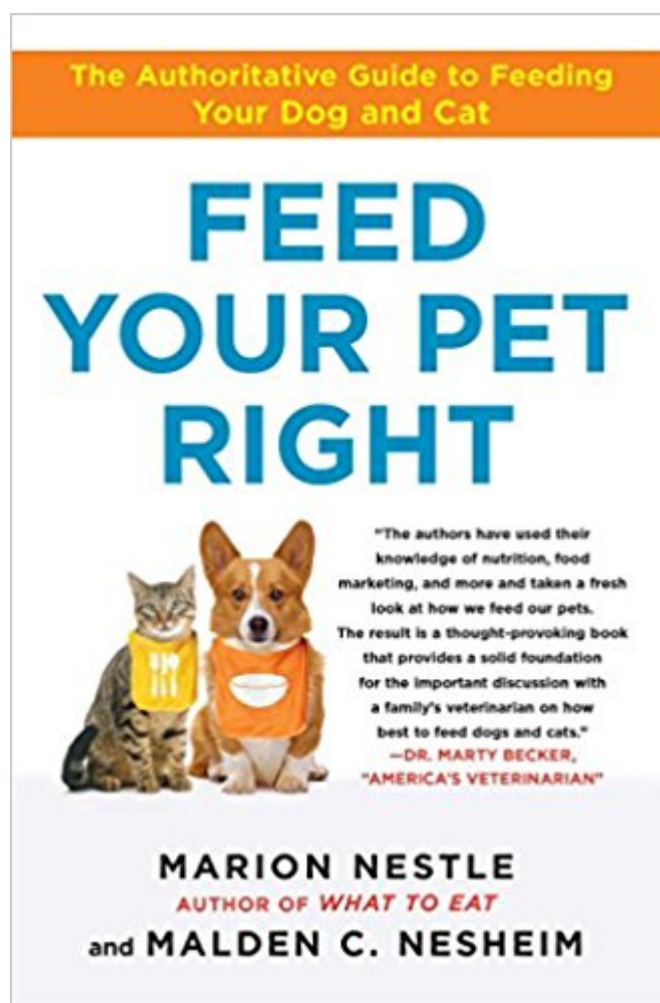


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Feed Your Pet Right: The Authoritative Guide To Feeding Your Dog And Cat



Synopsis

Human nutrition expert and author of the critically acclaimed *What to Eat*, Marion Nestle, Ph.D., M.P.H., has joined forces with Malden C. Nesheim, Ph.D., a Cornell animal nutrition expert, to write *Feed Your Pet Right*, the first complete, research-based guide to selecting the best, most healthful foods for your cat or dog. A comprehensive and objective look at the science behind pet food, it tells a fascinating story while evaluating the range of products available and examining the booming pet food industry and its marketing practices. Drs. Nestle and Nesheim also present the results of their unique research into this sometimes secretive industry. Through conversations with pet food manufacturers and firsthand observations, they reveal how some companies have refused to answer questions or permit visits. The authors also analyze food products, basic ingredients, sources of ingredients, and the optimal ways to feed companion animals. In this engaging narrative, they explain how ethical considerations affect pet food research and product development, how pet foods are regulated, and how companies influence veterinary training and advice. They conclude with specific recommendations for pet owners, the pet food industry, and regulators. A road map to the most nutritious diets for cats and dogs, *Feed Your Pet Right* is sure to be a reference classic to which all pet owners will turn for years to come.

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Customer Reviews

“FEED YOUR PET RIGHT is mind-blowingly excellent!! It is brilliant in every way--comprehensive in scope and clearly impartial and accessible to any reader.” --David Fraser,

Professor of Animal Science and former Dean of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sydney

Marion Nestle, Ph.D., M.P.H., is Paulette Goddard Professor in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at New York University, and author of three prize-winning books: *Food Politics*, *Safe Food*, and *What to Eat*, as well as *Pet Food Politics*. Visit her online at www.foodpolitics.com.
Malden Nesheim, Ph.D., is professor emeritus of nutritional sciences at Cornell University.

I was hoping for some specific advice, but never found it. I'm a big fan of Nestle and had hoped for insight on how to take better care of my cat's nutrition.

I was surprised after reading this book to come back to and read some of the reviews here. People seem to be hung up on ideological principles of how they *think* dogs/cats should eat, or what *sounds* natural to them based the evolution of dogs. I was very pleased to see that the authors of this book only pay attention to what science can tell us about how different foods are digested by our pets, and how well the nutrition of those foods is absorbed in their bodies. Their findings are based in research, not in opinion.

Nestle & Nesheim, two nutritionists, set out to evaluate the many competing claims about what diets are best for dogs and cats. To their own surprise, they discovered that there was insufficient evidence to declare one food better than another. They suggest that any food which is nutritionally complete and balanced should be adequate for your pet, unless it has special needs. In a far less extensive survey a few years ago, CONSUMER REPORTS drew the same conclusion. You might say that the authors display the courage of their lack of conviction. They must have known they would be set upon by carnivorous critics upon publication. People nowadays advance their theories of animal and human nutrition with a fervor once reserved for religious doctrines, and raw food adherents, grain-free advocates, and premium food aficionados have set upon them with a vengeance, as can be seen in some of the reviews and comments on this site. However, as Nestle & Nesheim note, there is still a lot to learn about animal nutrition, and it is lack of real knowledge that allows the furious clash of opinions. Rigorous scientific investigation may someday establish the facts, leaving little room for opinion about what the best foods are, but that day is still to come. In reading the book, I was shocked to see how little research has been done that is rigorous, peer-reviewed, and unbiased. I do have a few minor matters to grumble about. 1) Although the book

is 376 pages long, the authors say almost nothing about taste. Humans eat for enjoyment, not just for vitamins and minerals, and so do pets. What do dogs and cats like best? The book is essentially silent on this matter. 2) Statements like "We discuss this in more detail later" occur too often throughout the book. This is a mere stylistic oddity, but I found it obtrusive after a while. It made it seem like the content was continually receding as I read. 3) There is too much appendicized material to suit me. As one who has written scholarly material, I understand the need for appendices in academic writing. However, when I finish the last chapter of a book for the general reader, I want to be done. These quibbles notwithstanding, I recommend FEED YOUR PET RIGHT highly. While it won't convert the devotees, it can salve the consciences of the rest of us. The authors believe that pet owners should feed what feels right to them. If you want to feed homemade food, raw food, or vegetarian fare, you are free to do so. However, those of us who often grab a few cans of Friskies at the supermarket can stop feeling vaguely guilty. Most commercial diets will do.

I expected more of the book. It explain the difference between animal diets, but didnt convince me. For me, just OK.

Dr. Nestle is one of my favorite nutritionists. She has a no non-sense agenda when it comes to human nutrition - not all of which I agree with, but for the most part, she makes good sense with easy advice for good nutrition. I expected the same for this book. In fact, I pre-ordered the book (something I never do) because I was so sure it was going to overhaul the pet food arena. I was very, very wrong. It seems like the pet food industry has more influence than the human food industry! Recently my vet told me that homemade dog food would provide no nutrition for my dogs, and that I needed to feed them "nutritionally balanced commercial pet food." And I didn't even have ammunition in this book to contradict him, though I've seen with my own two eyes over the past 4 years the huge difference in health after feeding my dogs homemade dog food instead of commercial pet food. Let's look at this logically, if CAFO's produce meat that is unhealthy for humans - and that's the food "fit for human consumption" - just exactly how are the waste products and the 4-D meat from this industry supposed to be healthy for dogs? Dogs have been evolving with humans for thousands of years, their nutritional profile is extremely similar to ours. If highly processed foods are bad for us, then highly processed foods that aren't even fit for human consumption are bad for dogs. I've even been told by a holistic vet that I should add a calcium/phosphorous supplement since they aren't eating bones. Hello, they eat boiled eggs (no shell) from my own backyard chickens - there's more than fat, protein & cholesterol in eggs -

absolutely everything necessary to build a baby chick is in an egg - that would include calcium, phosphorous and a whole lot more nutrients (the assumption here is that the eggs are from healthy, happy, local, chickens...) My dogs have had no intestinal problems since feeding them homemade (cooked meat and veggies) dog food, whereas commercial dog food has necessitated emergency visits to the vet because of bad dog food at least once a year. In this book, Nestle does say that homemade food is fine - and she gives recipes, but she still insists that vitamin/mineral supplements are necessary. I suppose they can't hurt, but if you do the right combo of foods, they are unnecessary.

Like the book, and, everything went well. Thank you, RFobyn

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