

Appendix: USDA-NOP Organic Pet Food Task Force Initial Report April 7, 2006
DRAFT GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
Examples of Labeling Terms Allowed for Pet Food
Compliant with State Regulations and Proposed Organic Regulations

AAFCO Model Regulations for Pet Food (as adopted by States) www.aafco.org	Added Organic Claims under Proposed Organic Regulations, Pet Food Task Force http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/TaskForces/PetFood.html
100% rule – AAFCO PF3(a)	100% Organic, proposed 7 CFR 205.301(g)(1)
<p>“100% Beef Dog Food”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be 100% of one ingredient (in this case, beef), excl. water and trace amounts condiments and preservatives • If there are other added minerals, cannot be called “100% beef” 	<p>“100% Organic Beef Dog Food” “100% Organic Food For Dogs”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If claimed, must be 100% organic beef, excluding water and salt. • A product labeled 100% organic can include flavorings and approved preservatives only if they are all from organic sources. • <u>Cannot claim</u>- “100% Organic Dog Food,” as the modifiers imply the product is derived from organic dogs.
95% rule – AAFCO PF3 (b)(1)	Organic- 95% 205.301(g)(2)
<p>“My Favorite Beef Dog Food” “My Favorite Beef, Turkey, and Lamb Dog Food”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named ingredient must be from animals, poultry or fish • Ingredient or combination of named ingredients named must be 95% of the product (excluding water) in descending order by weight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least 3% of each named ingredient must be in the product ○ The same named ingredient must appear in the ingredient deck • <u>Cannot name other ingredients</u>: “My Favorite Oats, Barley and Rice Cat Food” 	<p>“My Favorite Organic Beef Dog Food” “My Favorite Organic Beef, Turkey, and Lamb Dog Food” “My Favorite Organic Food for Dogs”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named ingredient must be from animals, or poultry (no standards yet for organic fish) • Must have 95% organic beef or • Must have combination totaling 95% organic beef, turkey, lamb –listed in decreasing order by weight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must include at least 3% of each named ingredient ○ Each named ingredient must appear in the ingredient deck • 95% of ingredients must be organic, the other 5% must be on the National List at 205.605 or 205.606. • <u>Cannot claim</u> “My Favorite Chicken, Organic Rice and Organic Barley Dog Food” (all named ingredients must be from poultry or animals)

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25% Rule – AAFCO PF3 (b)(2)	95% Organic with descriptor
<p> “My Favorite Beef Dinner” “My Favorite Tuna Platter” “My Favorite Chicken Entrée” “My Favorite Beef and Lamb Dinner” </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be minimum 25% of named ingredient (excluding water) • Descriptor (dinner, platter, entrée, etc) is same size as name • If more than one ingredient is named, the total of the named ingredients must be 25% of product. All named ingredients must be a minimum of 3%, e.g, “My Favorite Beef and Lamb Dinner” could be 22% beef and 3% lamb • The named ingredients must appear in order of weight • The same named ingredient* must appear in the ingredient deck. If “chicken” appears in product name, it must appear in the ingredient list, ie. not poultry by-products or chicken meal. <p>* Names of ingredients must be as provided in approved feed ingredient definitions, AAFCO Official Publication</p>	<p> “My Favorite Organic Beef Dinner” </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be 95% organic, with minimum of 25 % organic chicken • Could have 25 % organic chicken, plus 70% other organic grains, or organic meat • All beef (meat as defined by AAFCO at 9.2) in ingredient list must be organic. [Other animal products such as liver or meat meal could be non-organic if not commercially available and listed on 205.606, and total organic ingredients are 95%] <p> “My Lamb and Beef Organic Dinner for Dogs” </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be 95% organic • Must have a total of 25% organic lamb and organic beef, with a minimum of 3% for any ingredient <p> “My Favorite Organic Whole Grain Corn and Chicken Entrée” </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be 95% organic. <p> Could have 22% organic corn, 3% organic chicken, and 70% organic other ingredients. </p> <p><u>Cannot claim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “My Favorite Organic Tuna Platter” – since there are no standards for organic fish under USDA at present. • “My Favorite Beef Organic Dinner” - and have 25% non-organic beef, 70% organic grains, 5% minerals. (does not meet 95% NOP organic requirement)
“With” Rule – AAFCO PF3(c)	Made with Organic 205.301(g)(3)

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<p>“My Favorite Dog Food with Beef” “My Favorite Dog Food with Beef, lamb and turkey”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must have 3% of named ingredients • Ingredients listed in descending order by weight 	<p>“My Favorite Dog Food Made with Organic Chicken”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have 3% organic chicken (flesh and skin as per the AAFCO definition of poultry at 9.57) and at least 67% other organic ingredients • Could contain non-organic chicken meal, or non-organic chicken fat <p>“My Favorite Cat Food Made with Organic Chicken, Rice, and Eggs”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have at least 3% organic chicken, 3% organic rice, and 3% organic eggs; plus 61% other organic ingredients • Ingredients must be listed by name in descending order by weight
Any category of pet food labels, AAFCO	Multi-ingredient products containing less than 70% organic ingredients
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any class of pet food could list organic ingredients in the ingredient listing, if truthful. • All other AAFCO requirements must be followed. 	<p>“My Favorite Dog Food with Beef”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must only describe organic ingredients in the ingredient listing, not on primary display panel • Products cannot be certified organic • Products cannot bear the USDA organic seal or certifier name. • Products may declare the percentage of organic ingredients in the ingredient statement.

Questions and Answers:

Q. Can a product be labeled “100% Organic Soy Pet Treat”?

A. Yes, provided it is composed of 100% organic ingredients, and no claims for complete and balanced diet are made.

Q. Can a product be labeled “100% Organic Sunflower, Flax, Thistle Seed for Pet Birds”?

A. Yes this is permitted for pet birds as long as no nutritional claims are made.

Q. Can a product be labeled “Wild Bird Food, Made with Organic Sunflower Seeds”? What about horse and rabbit food?

A. No, wild birds, horses, and rabbits are not considered specialty pets under the definition proposed at 205.2. Wild Bird Food, equine, llama, and rabbit foods must meet the USDA organic livestock feed standards, and can be formulated with 100% organic agricultural ingredients, plus any approved additives listed for livestock.

Q. Can a product be labeled “100% Organic Catnip”?

A. Yes, provided it only contains organic catnip, and makes no nutrient claims.

Q. Why can’t I have a product labeled “My Favorite Chicken, Organic Rice and Organic Barley Dog Food”?

A. The AAFCO model regulation, which is the basis for most state regulations on pet food and livestock feed, requires that when a pet food uses ingredients in the product name, they must be derived from animals, poultry or fish, to indicate a 95% claim on those ingredients, unless a modifier such as “entrée”, “dinner”, or “platter” is used – in which case other named ingredients can be specified provided there is a minimum of 25% of the named ingredients in the product.

Q. Can pet food make an organic claim if it is not certified by a USDA accredited agency?

A. Products that only indicate organic ingredients in the ingredient listing of the product, but not on the principal display panel may be marketed without certification. Products that are not certified cannot display the USDA organic seal, or name or seal of a certification agency. Products that contain less than 70% organic ingredients cannot be certified as organic, but they may list the organic ingredients in the ingredient listing. State officials charged with reviewing pet food labels under state laws may ask manufacturers to provide documentation of certification for ingredients described as organic when the product is not certified.

Q. Can a company name use the word “organic” and market a product that is not certified organic? Example: “Betty’s Organic Lifestyle” markets a product called “Premium Natural Dog Food”

A. Yes, the USDA does not regulate company names. However the USDA has stated they will monitor the use of the term “organic” in company names, and work with the Federal Trade Commission to take action against misuse of the term.

For full details, see the Initial Pet Food Task Force Report:

Available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nosb/meetings/OrgPetFood.pdf>

Comments welcome: send to NOSB.Processing@usda.gov