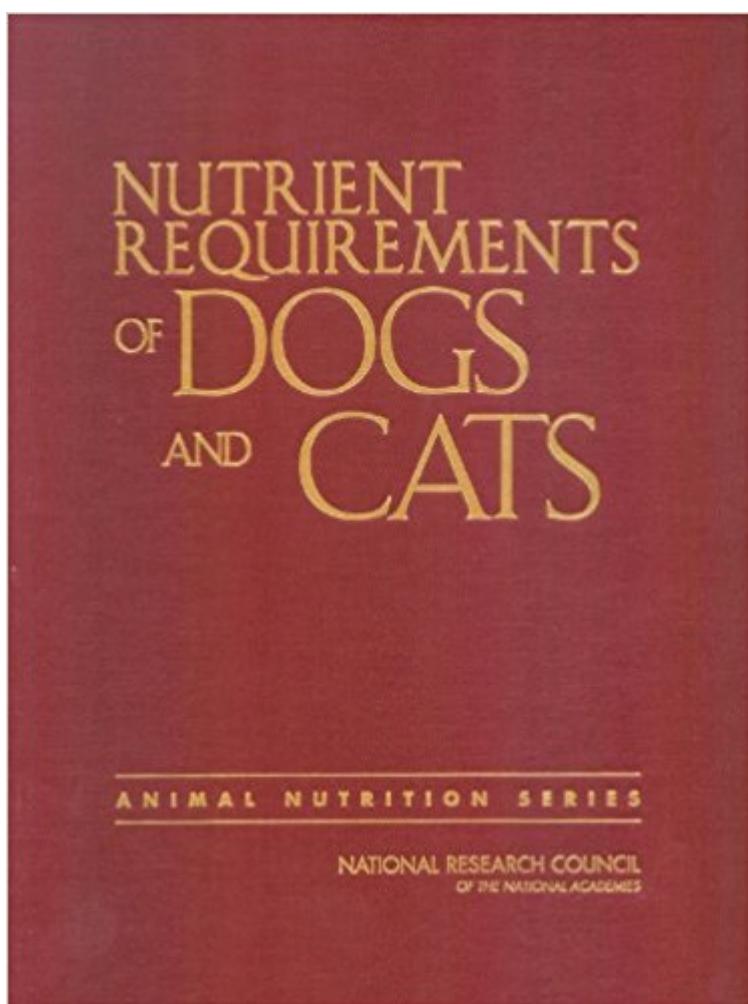


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# **Nutrient Requirements Of Dogs And Cats (Nutrient Requirements Of Domestic Animals)**



## **Synopsis**

Updating recommendations last made by the National Research Council in the mid-1980s, this report provides nutrient recommendations based on physical activity and stage in life, major factors that influence nutrient needs. It looks at how nutrients are metabolized in the bodies of dogs and cats, indications of nutrient deficiency, and diseases related to poor nutrition. The report provides a valuable resource for industry professionals formulating diets, scientists setting research agendas, government officials developing regulations for pet food labeling, and as a university textbook for dog and cat nutrition. It can also guide pet owners feeding decisions for their pets with information on specific nutrient needs, characteristics of different types of pet foods, and factors to consider when feeding cats and dogs.

## **Book Information**

Series: Nutrient Requirements of Domestic Animals

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## **Customer Reviews**

Subcommittee on Dog and Cat Nutrition, Committee on Animal Nutrition, National Research Council

This is a reference book, not a book to sit and read (unless you have a penchant for studying and love to read scientific material about dog and cat nutrition). That said, this is the absolute bible regarding the nutritional needs of cats and dogs, a compendium of the most current research findings available. This would be the definitive reference for anyone involved in animal nutrition or who is developing diets and recipes for cats and dogs.

Great book!

Because this book is nearly \$300, I didn't buy it - I borrowed it from my university library via interlibrary loan. However, since it only has one review so far, I want to write a review. I considered buying a huge variety of different books written for laypeople about canine nutrition and homemade dog food because I wanted to start making food for my dogs. However, I found all the books (including several that were very highly-rated here on ) to be either not sufficiently complete or not adequately referenced. In many cases, different highly-rated books plainly contradicted one another. I decided I needed some real science. This book is published by the National Academy of Science and was put together by the Committee on Animal Nutrition. A team of international experts was involved - by which I mean academic experts/researchers, not celebrity veterinarians. It is essentially a compendium of peer-reviewed research findings on canine and feline nutrition. Each macro and micro nutrient has a section describing what is known about it, and there is other information on items such as water, total caloric intake, weight, feeding times, etc. At the end of the book are tables indicating what is known about minimum, maximum, and optimal intake of a large list of macronutrients, mineral nutrients, microminerals, amino acids, etc. for dogs and cats. There are also many helpful notes on bio-availability, which I found particularly lacking in many of the popular books. It is important to note that this book is written for a scholarly and/or technical audience. To use it, you will have to be able to understand some of the terminology used, do unit conversions, and calculate how the recommendations apply to your dog (or cat). Some basic knowledge of chemistry, math, and nutritional science is helpful to be able to understand everything in the book. I have some undergraduate coursework in these topics under my belt but still found a few of the sections difficult to decipher. However, it is definitely the bible of pet nutrition.

This is a summary of scientific research done over a period of decades. It is not a "how to" manual for making pet food. I spent many hours with it in conjunction with the USDA website and found that it is nearly impossible to come up with a recipe for home-made dog food that will meet all of the nutritional needs without exceeding the maximum amounts of certain nutrients.

I am rather disappointed by both the uncritical reviews of this book as well as the book itself. If you read the Acknowledgements you will find that this book is funded by several parties among which the Pet Food Institute. The Pet Food Institute is an organisation with the purpose of promoting

commercial pet food. While the pet food industry might have its merits for people who don't want to spend time making homemade food for their pets I do not think such an institution should fund a book about pet nutrition (for the obvious reason). More intriguing than the funding is the fact that I could not find (1) Feeding habits of feral or semiferal cats (it seems fairly clear that they feed on rodents and birds but this book was the place where I expected to find reference to a study confirming this). Instead, on page 22 in the section entitled "Food ingestions by feral dogs and cats" the reader is bored with anecdotes ("a male Labrador once ate 10 percent of its body weight"). I give 2 instead of 1 stars since they still mention that the prey of pet cats allowed outside includes "...mice, birds, lizards and insects". I am also happy that they mention that cats are strict carnivores. (2) Given the above I expect the book to explicitly state that a cat's diet should not include carbohydrates (since neither mice nor birds do). But disappointingly, on page 54, there is a paragraph with "adult maintenance diets for cats contain .... 16 to 37 percent " of carbohydrates. Although this does contradict the previously stated habit of feeding on mice and birds (less than 2 percent carbohydrates) this does nicely support a commercial pet food diet. But that aside, the paragraph does not even define what an "adult maintenance diet of a cat" even is. What it should mean is whatever feral cats eat. But since that data is seemingly not available then the reader must assume it to mean whatever values have shown no immediate adverse health effects in a laboratory setting. Note that immediate here is used to mean "death within a few weeks". Whether a diet consisting of 30 percent carbohydrates will lead to kidney failure after 14 years is left to the reader as an exercise.

All the info I need

Very good book to teach factual based studies that erase skuttlebutt knowledge that is rampant within dog lovers. This book gives you the facts. Information that is actionable.

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