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# questions you **should** be able to answer about the food you recommend

Hint: You'll have to look beyond the label.

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association and the American Animal Hospital Association created a list of questions veterinary teams should be able to answer about the food they recommend. If a pet food manufacturer cannot or will not provide the following information, you should think twice about sending it home with your clients.

1. Does the company employ a full-time qualified nutritionist? What is the nutritionist's name and qualifications?
2. Who formulated the company's foods and what are his/her credentials?
3. Are the diets tested using the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) feed control trials or by formulation to meet AAFCO nutrient profiles? If

the latter, do the diets meet AAFCO nutrient profiles by formulation or by analysis of the finished product?

4. Where are the foods produced and manufactured?
5. What specific quality control measures does the company use to assure the consistency and quality of the ingredients and the end product?
6. Can the company provide an average/typical nutrient analysis for the dog or cat food in question or their lead product?
7. Can the company provide the calorie content of their diet by gram, can or cup?
8. What kind of product research has been conducted? Are the results published in peer-reviewed journals?