

The ONLY fresh food diet that meets all of the WSAVA guidelines is the new Royal Canin “Fresh Health Nutrition”. Full stop - this is our best recommendation.

The next 2 that come very close are JustFood For Dogs, and Nom-Nom. These are the only other “second best” options I would consider if I had a client who absolutely *insisted* on a “fresh” food option - and I do have plenty.

Farmer’s Dog is advertising they meet the WSAVA guidelines. We are getting a bunch of people asking about this. We say it’s not true, they do not meet the highest industry standards and it’s all just marketing spin.

Farmer’s Dog is really good at marketing, yet not so good at actually meeting the highest standards for pet food. One example is they contract out their manufacturing. They don’t make their own food. They don’t even hire companies who are experts in pet food manufacturing. They brag about using human food manufacturing facilities. This limits the ingredients they can use. Human foods are essentially never formulated to be complete diets, yet dog foods must be. Dog food isn’t a “recipe,” it’s a very precise formula that must be correct down to the micronutrients. Human food simply isn’t made like that. There is no benefit in hiring a human food manufacturer to make pet food. Pet food experts need to make pet food. When you contract out your manufacturing, you also contract out your quality control.

Farmer’s Dog does hire a DACVN and a PhD. While that is a step in the right direction, the two experts they say they have hired appear to have multiple full time jobs. This would argue against these two being fully involved in the day to day operations of making dog food. One of them is extremely well known as a social media influencer who is heavily involved in the holistic health trends and has demonstrated time and time again to have strong beliefs that are extremely contradictory to 99% of the experts in the field of Veterinary Nutrition. He actively discredits his peers. He actively contradicts research. He also has repeatedly denied DA-DCM and the link with nutrition and has financial interests in continuing to do so.

Rather than completing AAFCO feeding trials, Farmers Dog has come out with a long diatribe about how they have done feeding trials that are way better than that. The idea behind an AAFCO feeding trial is to have similar dogs (breed and age group) housed in the same environment with the same exercise and enrichment eating only the diet that is being trialed. The whole idea is to limit the variables so the actual food can be tested. Farmer’s Dog didn’t do that. Farmer’s Dog sent food home with employees for employees to feed it to their own family dogs. These dogs of all different types all live in different home

environments with different exercise programs for various different lengths of time and did not exclusively eat Farmers Dog food. From this, they determined their “food trial” is better.

Farmers Dog food formulas are well outside the normal parameters when it comes to protein and fat. They have extremely high percentages of protein and fat. They call that exceeding AAFCO standards and are quite proud of doing so, but that is not actually a good thing. Such high levels of protein also delivers extremely high levels of calcium and phosphorus, well above healthy parameters. Extreme levels of fat can quickly set up for pancreatitis and obesity. All of their formulas are “All Life Stages” which means you are feeding the sedentary adult dog nutrition suitable for a growing puppy.

Farmers Dog is now a sponsor of WSAVA. In no way does that mean WSAVA gives them a stamp of approval, it simply means Farmers Dog has donated a big chunk of money to WSAVA. They are sponsoring WSAVA’s Professional Wellness Committee, a committee that is critical for advancing mental health and physical wellness of the Veterinary community. Extremely critical, but not in any way related to pet nutrition.

Not to mention the link to nutritionally mediated DCM! And there is also a new type of CTT bladder stone associated with Farmer’s Dog and other fresh food diets....

<https://profiles-vetmed.umn.edu/article/umn-researchers-discover-new-urinary-stone-and-likely-cause>

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