Bureau of Agricultural Products Inspection

The Bureau of Agricultural Products Inspection is responsible for overseeing compliance with the Illinois Commercial Feed Act including the licensing of manufacturers or distributors of pet foods and registration of their products before distribution in the State.

Anyone who wishes to make homemade pet food for distribution must also comply with these requirements and follow rules on pet food labeling.

Information may be obtained by visiting the Department's web site: www.agr.state.il.us

Or by phone:

(217) 782-3817

TDD (217) 524-6858

Did You Know?

The Bureau of Agricultural Products Inspection also performs Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP) and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) inspections of Illinois commercial feed manufacturers, oversees regulations concerning storage, equipment and handling of anhydrous ammonia as a fertilizer and obtains official samples of commercial feeds including pet food, fertilizer, agricultural seed, grass seed and vegetable seed which are then analyzed in relation to the guarantees specified on the label.

The Bureau of Marketing offers an Illinois products logo program for Illinois manufacturers and their products including pet food.
(217) 524-9130

FDA also has an Illinois consumer complaint line for pet food.
(312) 353-7840

State Fairgrounds P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL. 62794-9281
(217) 782-3817
TTY (217) 524-6858
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www.agr.state.il.us
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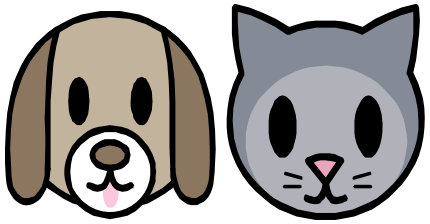
Pet Food as a Business

A Regulatory Guide for the Cottage Industry



*A "**pet food**" means any commercial feed including snacks or treats prepared & distributed for the consumption by dogs or cats.*

All pet foods are regulated by the Illinois Department of Agriculture

State of Illinois

What are the requirements if I want to make and sell a pet food ?

You must obtain a license from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Each product made and sold under a license must be registered with the Department.

Each product must be labeled in accordance with the pet food rules mandated by the Illinois Commercial Feed Act.

Are there any fees for a license and product registration?

Yes, the license fee is $30.00 and the method of product sale will determine the registration fee. If you sell pet food in containers of 10 lbs or less, the fee is $90.00/ product. If you sell the pet food as bulk (loose or non-packaged), allowing the consumer to choose the quantity purchased, it is subject to a tonnage inspection fee of 30 cents/ton. The minimum tonnage inspection fee is $25.00 to be paid semiannually. If you sell a pet food in both a container and bulk, the fee is $90.00 for any packaged product of 10 lbs or less and any amount sold in bulk or packages greater than 10 lbs will be subject to the tonnage inspection fee.

All licenses and product registrations expire **December 31st of each year**.

Can I make a pet food and give it away?

No, the definition of distribution includes "***give away***" where a license, product registration and proper labeling remain a requirement.

What are the labeling requirements?

The principal display panel which is the panel that faces the consumer must include:

1. Product and brand name, if any.
2. A statement of species designation e.g. "Dog" or "Cat".
3. The word "snack" or "treat" if intended for such use.
4. Net weight on the bottom one-third if packaged.

The remaining required information has the option of appearing on the front or a back panel:

5. A Guaranteed Analysis declared for the following and in the order of:

   Guaranteed Analysis

   Crude Protein (min.) %

   Crude Fat (min.) %

   Crude Fiber (max.) %

   Moisture (max.) %
6. Ingredient statement listing each ingredient by AAFCO definition or if no definition is available; by common or usual name in order of predominance by weight.
7. Name and address of company.

If sold as bulk, the bulk container must display a label on the outside with all information described above facing the consumer with the exception of net weight.

NOTE:

There are additional labeling requirements for pet food under the Illinois Commercial Feed Act including pet food intended for a purpose other than a snack or treat or use of an ingredient or ingredients as part of the product or brand name.

Can I make pet food at home?

Yes, the Act does not prohibit the making of pet food in one's home, however, if you intend to distribute this pet food, you must be in compliance with Illinois Commercial Feed Act including a license, product registration, labeling and follow Current Good Manufacturing Practices.

How do I obtain product guarantee for the label?

You will need to contact a commercial laboratory for a chemical analysis of the pet food to determine the percentages of crude protein, crude fat, crude fiber and moisture which in turn will be used on the label. An informal list of laboratories may be obtained by contacting the Department.

Where can I obtain additional information?

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO)

Offers a publication that covers additional pet food labeling guidelines and ingredient definitions as well as a web site dedicated to the cottage industry in understanding requirements.

http://www.petfood.aafco.org/Home.aspx

Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)

Federal regulatory information on pet food such as labeling, claims, a searchable recall of pet food products, a web portal to report complaints and access to:

Guidance for Industry #122—Manufacture and labeling of raw meat foods for companion and captive non-companion carnivores and omnivores

http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/Products/AnimalFoodFeeds/PetFood/default.htm