



What Does AAFCO's "All Life Stages" Mean?

- If the AAFCO statement says "complete and balanced for all life stages" ...

- ✓ The pet food has to be suitable for puppies, kittens or pregnant/lactating adults – which means some of the nutrients may be at levels that are excessive for typical adult and older pets!

- Pets need food that's appropriate for their specific stage in life so they will receive adequate, but not excessive, amounts of important nutrients.

- ✓ Puppies, kittens and lactating mothers need more protein, vitamins, and minerals than adults to ensure proper growth.

- ✓ For typical adult dogs & cats, excess intake of certain nutrients may make some conditions worse. For example, excessive phosphorus intake worsens kidney disease, a condition that often goes undetected in its early stages.

- ✓ AAFCO does not publish nutrient guidelines for older dogs and cats. However, foods for these pets should address changes in vital organ function that occur as animals mature.

- The AAFCO statement on pet food packaging verifies the product is nutritionally balanced for a designated life stage:

- ✓ Growth, pregnancy/lactation, adult, or all life stages
- Many pet food manufacturers offer products for a pet's specific stage in life (e.g., adults).

- ✓ Check AAFCO statements to make sure the food you are feeding your puppy or kitten is appropriate for growth. **And make sure the dog or cat food you choose for your adult pet is intended for adult maintenance, NOT all life stages.**

- Recommend Hill's® Science Diet® brand pet foods with confidence. You can be sure that Science Diet dog and cat foods **offer precise nutrition for particular life stages.**



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Nutritional Nuggets

No. NN0045 Pet Food Labels- Understanding Terms