

UNDERSTANDING WHY YOUR VET HAS PRESCRIBED HILL'S C/D

Struvite vs. Calcium Oxalate crystals. Struvite crystals are usually formed in response to urine that is saturated with magnesium, ammonium and phosphorus combined with an alkaline urinary pH (not acidic enough). So, the goal of pet food manufacturers is to lower magnesium and phosphorus, thereby increasing the acid level in the urine. BUT, increasing the level too much can cause the calcium oxalate crystals so you don't want to go too far in the other direction.

How do struvite crystals form in the first place? #1 cause is grain-based food #2 not enough moisture (dry food diet). If you are not going to feed a raw diet, get a water fountain ASAP. Or, you can always make your own out of a fish tank pump and a bowl full of rocks. The latter is harder to keep clean for some reason, never figured that out. Also, make sure you filter the chlorine from the tap water your cats drink with a Brita or similar type product. Another option: get a rain barrel and use that water (as long as the water is not coming off an asbestos roof etc). #3 and, believe it or not, STRESS.

Water: Cat's don't need it if you feed a raw diet, they do if you don't. Canned food has water, dry food does not. It is a marketing myth that dry food is good for cleaning cat's teeth. Dry food has one purpose: a cat owner's convenience. Cats prefer dry food to canned food like people prefer potato chips to carrots. Salt (sodium, sodium chloride) is often added to make cats thirsty, thereby encouraging water consumption.

pH: alkaline vs. acidic. The recommended urinary pH for cats is 6.0-6.5. Want to test your cat's urine pH? Go to PetSmart and get a pond water test strip. I use Jungle Lab's simply b/c that's what my PetSmart carries but there are others out there. Simply dunk the strip in the urine after he pees I would imagine. Never done it but it should work ;-)

http://www.drsfostersmith.com/product/prod_display.cfm?pcatid=5363

Ignorance and Greed

Veterinarians are usually not nutritionists. They recommend prescription diets like Hill's and Royal Canin because the manufacturer's reps come to them and sell them on the products. Plus, veterinarians get "kickbacks" on the sale of the food.

GOOD REFERENCES TO REVIEW

<http://www.felinefuture.com/?p=574>

<http://www.felinefuture.com/?p=630>

<http://www.catnutrition.org/index.php>

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/brochures/urinary.html>

<http://cats.about.com/od/lowerurinarytractdisease/qt/catsurinpH.htm>

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CAT FOOD

- 1) grain-free is best (especially avoiding any corn products) and.
- 2) NO by-products
- 3) NOT processed at a plant like Menu Foods or Diamond so that you can rest easy about recalls due to contamination

A 4th factor, depending on your politics, is animal testing. Yep, that's right, there are actually pet food manufacturers that keep laboratory animals for testing food and the testing they do is unbelievable. You don't want to know how they determine how much zinc makes it into puppy's teeth and nails after 5 weeks of a special diet... IAMS (also makes Eukanuba) is a vile company. I'll send you references if you want, but I can't look at the pics :- (Hill's and Purina are also on the list but I will be honest – I cannot do much research on this topic – it upsets me too much. If PETA and ASPCA say they do it, that's good enough for me.

NOTE: If your veterinarian insists on a "prescription" diet, you can tell him or her about Wysong Struvatrol or find a new vet ;-)

Struvatrol™ is designed to provide nutritional support to the urinary tract and production of acidic urine through archetypal nutritional balances, biochemically rich ingredients and non-thermal processing.

COMPARISON OF HILL'S C/D TO ROYAL CANIN AND WYSONG ¹

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS ²	2008 AAFCO CAT FOOD NUTRIENT PROFILES Recommendations for Adult Maintenance ³	Hill's c/d® Multicare with Chicken Feline ⁴	Royal Canin Urinary SO gel (canned) ⁵	Wysong Struvatrol ⁶
Crude Protein (Min)	26.0%	43.8%	40%	50.0%
Crude Fat (Min)	N/A	20.9%	45%	28.0%
Crude Fiber (Max)	N/A	2.0%	2.5%	2.8%
Moisture (Max)	N/A	N/A	79%	3.0%
Ingredients	N/A	Pork By-Products , Water, Pork Liver, Chicken, Rice, Corn Starch , Oat Fiber, Chicken Fat (preserved with mixed tocopherols and citric acid), Fish Meal, Corn Gluten Meal , Chicken Liver Flavor, Calcium Sulfate, Guar Gum, Fish Oil, Brewers Dried Yeast, Glucose, DL-Methionine, Choline Chloride, Potassium Chloride, Taurine, Cysteine, Calcium Carbonate, Dried Egg Yolk,	Water, Meat By-Products, Chicken By-Products, Animal Fat (Preserved With Bha/Bht) , Natural Flavors, Trace Minerals (Sodium Tripolyphosphate, Calcium Sulfate, Potassium Chloride, Calcium Carbonate, Magnesium Sulfate, Manganese Sulfate, Zinc Sulfate), Guar Gum, Carrageenan, Carob Gum, Taurine, Vitamins	Beef, Beef Liver, Chicken, Chicken Liver, Ground Beef and Chicken Bone, Fish Oil, Cranberry, Bilberry, Uva Ursi, DLMethionine, Ascorbic Acid, Milk Calcium, Lecithin, Coconut Oil, Plums, Lactoferrin, Lactoperoxidase, Barley Grass, Wheat Grass, Desiccated Sea Plankton, Artichoke, Dried Enterococcus faecium Fermentation Product, Dried Lactobacillus plantarum Fermentation Product, Dried Lactobacillus acidophilus Fermentation Product, Dried Lactobacillus casei Fermentation Product, Dried Lactobacillus lactis Fermentation Product,

· By-products and grain ingredients bolded.

· Pet food nutritional analysis data is presented in two ways: "as fed" and "dry matter." The data in this table is presented as "dry matter" for ease of comparison since that is how most "guaranteed analysis" data is presented. The data below is presented as "as fed" since most food labels present the data in this format for the mineral content.

· Source: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ResourcesforYou/ucm047120.htm>

· Source: http://www.hillspet.com/hillspet/products/productDetails.hjsp?PRODUCT%3C%3Eprd_id=845524441783041

· Source:

<http://74.125.47.132/search?q=cache:w0ONxbLJtdw:www.walthamusa.com/Learning%2520Center/pdf/SO30.pdf+feline+ph+maintenance+royal+canin&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

· Source: <http://www.wysong.net/RXdiets/struvatrol-struvite-prescription-cat-dog-food.php>

		Glycine, Vitamin E Supplement, Iodized Salt, Potassium Citrate, Thiamine Mononitrate, Zinc Oxide, Ferrous Sulfate, Niacin, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Beta-Carotene, Manganous Oxide, Calcium Pantothenate, Vitamin B12 Supplement, Riboflavin, Biotin, Vitamin D3 Supplement, Folic Acid, Calcium Iodate.	(Choline Chloride, DL-Alpha Tocopherol Acetate [Source Of Vitamin E], Vitamin D3 Supplement, Thiamine Mononitrate [Vitamin B1], Pyridoxine Hydrochloride [Vitamin B6], Folic Acid), DL-Methionine.	Dried Saccharomyces cerevisiae Fermentation Product, Dried Aspergillus oryzae Fermentation Product, Dried Aspergillus niger Fermentation Product, Phytase, Natural Extractives of Rosemary, Natural Extractives of Sage, Choline Chloride, Zinc Proteinate, Iron Proteinate, Vitamin E Supplement, Niacin Supplement, Manganese Proteinate, Calcium Pantothenate, Thiamine Mononitrate, Copper Proteinate, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Riboflavin Supplement, Vitamin A Acetate, Folic Acid, Biotin, Vitamin B12 Supplement, Vitamin D3 Supplement.
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On the basis of the criteria above, before we even get to Nutritional Analysis, for me, feeding by-Products is not an option.

AAFCO MINIMUM RECOMMENDATIONS: HILL'S C/D AND OTHER BRANDS ⁷ WITH NO BY-PRODUCTS OR CORN INGREDIENTS

Nutrient Analysis ⁸	2008 AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profiles Recommendations For Adult Maintenance ⁹	% Hill's Prescripti on c/d Multicare with Chicken (Minced) ¹⁰	% Royal Canin Urinary SO gel (canned) ¹¹	% Purina Veterina ry Diets UR St/Ox URinary Feline Formula Canned ¹²	% Innova Adult Cat Flex Chicken & Brown Rice Stew ¹³	% GO! NATURAL CANNED FELINE FORMULAS: Chicken & Vegetable ¹⁴	% Innova EVO 95% Chicken & Turkey Canned Cat Food ¹⁵	% Innova Cat and Kitten Canned Cat and Kitten Food ¹⁶	% California Natural Chicken & Brown Rice Canned Cat and Kitten Food ¹⁷	% Weruva Paw Lickin Chicken Canned Cat Food ¹⁸
Protein (min)	5.2	8.5	8.5	12.1	9.0	11.0	9.0	11.0	9.0	10.0
Fat (min)	N/A	3.5	9.0	10.7	4.5	6.0	10.0	7.0	6.0	1.4
Crude Fiber	N/A	1.0	.51	N/A	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.0	.50
Phosphorus (max)	.50	.10 (min)	.28	.24	.36	N/A	.32	.36	.29	.17
Magnesium (max)	.04 ¹⁹	.02	.02	.01	.02	.02	.02	.03	.025	.011
Potassium	.60	.80	.21	.29	.20	N/A	.26	.27	.24	N/A
Sodium	.20	.32	.21	.13	.22	N/A	.11	.19	.24	N/A
Calcium (max)	.60	.10 (min)	.21	.26	.44	N/A	.47	.44	.33	.20
Taurine	.20	.06 (min)	.13	.08	.08	.05	.07	.08	.07	N/A

⁷ This list is by NO means comprehensive, it is representative of foods I've personally tried or non-prescription food (Go! Natural) that addresses urinary health issues. Not listed is raw diets - any of which are the best for your cat.

⁸ For consistency in this comparison chart wherever possible, Protein, Fat, and Crude Fiber data is derived from the product's "Guaranteed Analysis," Remaining nutrient data are derived from the product's "Nutrient Analysis."

⁹ Source: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ResourcesforYou/ucm047120.htm>

¹⁰ Source: (all data derived from Guaranteed Analysis) http://www.petfooddirect.com/store/product_detail.asp?pf_id=302103501&dept_id=6&brand_id=1035&Page=

¹¹ Source: <http://www.walthamusa.com/Learning%20Center/SO30-canned.html>

¹² Source: (all data derived from Guaranteed Analysis) http://www.petfooddirect.com/store/product_detail.asp?pf_id=30253401KT&dept_id=6

¹³ Source: http://www.innovapet.com/product_line.asp?id=1694

¹⁴ Source: (all data derived from Guaranteed Analysis) http://petcurean.com/index.php?page_id=130

¹⁵ Source: <http://www.evopet.com/products/default.asp?panel=ga&id=1662>

¹⁶ Source: http://www.innovapet.com/product_line.asp?id=34

¹⁷ Source: <http://www.californianaturalpet.com/products/default.asp?id=1007>

¹⁸ Source: (all data derived from Guaranteed Analysis) <http://www.weruva.com/> and http://www.petfooddirect.com/store/product_detail.asp?pf_id=30217627&dept_id=6&brand_id=1076&Page=

¹⁹ Per the AAFCO, " If the mean urine pH of cats fed ad libitum is not below 6.4, the risk of struvite urolithiasis increases as the magnesium content of the diet increases."

Nutrient Analysis	2008 AAFCO CAT FOOD NUTRIENT PROFILES Recommendations for Adult Maintenance	% Hill's Prescripti on c/d Multicare with Chicken (Minced)	% Royal Canin Urinary SO gel (canned)	% Purina Veterinary Diets UR St/Ox URinary Feline Formula Canned	% Innova Adult Cat Flex Chicken & Brown Rice Stew	% GO! NATURAL CANNED FELINE FORMULAS: Chicken & Vegetable	% Innova EVO 95% Chicken & Turkey Canned Cat Food	% Innova Cat and Kitten Canned Cat and Kitten Food	% California Natural Chicken & Brown Rice Canned Cat and Kitten Food	% Weruva Paw Lickin Chicken Canned Cat Food
Ingredients Contain By-Products?		YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Ingredients Contain Corn or Wheat?		YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Does company engage in or pay others to conduct animal testing on their products or ingredients in their products?		YES	?	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

What you feed your cat is your decision. What your cat eats is ultimately his or her decision. If your child only wanted to eat candy bars, would you let them? WARNING: cats are stubborn and will not eat if they don't like their food!! This can be life-threatening, so be prepared to try different varieties and mix them in with their current food, changing the ratio over time until they are eating good food. Switching cats from dry food to canned is often seemingly impossible. You may waste good (expensive) food to start, but just think of the vet bills you'll save later!!