Pet food label checklist

Complete one sheet per food. Compare facts from the current package, not front-of-bag claims.

Food: _____ **Date checked:** _____

☐ **Exact product identity**
Brand, full recipe name, flavor, format, package size, UPC/item number.

☐ **Species and life stage**
Dog or cat; growth, adult maintenance, gestation/lactation, or all life stages.

☐ **Nutritional adequacy statement**
Copy the complete-and-balanced statement and feeding-test/formulation wording exactly. Note any large-size growth qualification.

☐ **Calorie statement**
_____ kcal per _____ and _____ kcal/kg.

☐ **Feeding directions**
Pet weight: _____ Label amount/day: _____ Unit: _____

☐ **Ingredients and guaranteed analysis**
Photograph both panels. Veterinarian-directed avoid/check notes: _____

☐ **Manufacturer and traceability**
Company/contact: _____ Lot: _____ Best by: _____

Three checks after the label

Transition plan
Record the maker's directions and your veterinarian's guidance.
_____

Opened storage
Note refrigeration and use-after-opening directions.
_____

Real cost
Compare cost per feeding day, not bag price.
_____

Safety boundary: This worksheet organizes label facts. It does not diagnose an allergy, select a therapeutic diet, or replace veterinary advice. Formulas and directions change; recheck the current package.

Sources: U.S. FDA, "How to Read a Pet Food Label"; AAFCO, "Reading Labels." Free to print and cite with attribution to CheckPet: wu120.com/food/pet-food-label-checklist/