

# What's In Your Companion's "Premium" Food?

## Dog food is dead food

**By-Products**—often include tissue from dead, diseased, and disabled animals; hooves, hair, hide, beaks, feet, feathers, tumors, urine and fecal matter.

**BHT/BHA**—can cause allergic reactions, fetal abnormalities and abnormal behavior in offspring; affects kidney and liver functions. BHT is prohibited in England, Sweden, and Australia

**Ethoxyquin (Santoquin)**—this herbicide that has been found to cause liver tumors. This artificial preservative is NOT allowed in human foods

**Artificial Colors**—Contain coal-tar derivatives and possible carcinogens; increase sensitivities to fatal viruses and can cause mutations

**Artificial Flavors**—these are the same substances that cause hyperactivity in children.<sup>3</sup>

**Sugar** (sucrose, dextrose, corn syrup, etc.)—Interferes with your pet's ability to digest protein, calcium, and other minerals; inhibits growth of beneficial intestinal bacteria; can stimulate the production of fat

**Sodium Nitrate**—Produces nitrosamines (powerful cancer-causing agents) known to have caused deaths, and has induced severe arthritic symptoms. It is mutagenic, teratogenic, and toxic. It is also linked to abnormalities of the immune system

**MSG** - it can cause brain damage (in humans) and may trigger or aggravate learning disabilities as well as diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Lou Gehrig's. It's really hard to find MSG on food labels. The FDA allows more than 40 ingredients that contain it. But because it isn't added directly to the food, it doesn't have to be listed on the label. One of the pet food industry's favorite forms of MSG is hydrolyzed protein, also used to enhance flavor. If you see "natural flavoring" or "digest" on the label, it's probably hydrolyzed protein.

**Starch content** - Starch, or carbohydrate, is an important part of the extrusion process of making kibble. Most dry dog foods contain at least 30% starch. The average starch content is 40% and some dry foods can contain up to 60% starch. Dogs need protein and fat in their diet to survive, they have zero requirement for starch. So the starch isn't put in pet foods because your dog needs it. It's in there so they can produce billions of bags a year at a cheap cost. When dogs eat this much starch their insulin activity changes and they will get fat.