

AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profiles Based on Calorie Content

Nutrients	Units	Growth and	Adult	Maximum
	per 1000 kcal ME	Reproduction Minimum	Maintenance Minimum ^a	
Crude Protein	g	75	65	
Arginine	g	3.10	2.60	
Histidine	g	0.83	0.78	
Isoleucine	g	1.40	1.30	
Leucine	g	3.20	3.10	
Lysine	g	3.00	2.08	
Methionine	g	1.55	0.5	3.75
Methionine-cystine	g	2.75	1.00	
Phenylalanine	g	1.30	1.05	
Phenylalanine-tyrosine	g	4.80	3.83	
Threonine	g	1.83	1.83	
Tryptophan	g	0.63	0.40	4.25
Valine	g	1.55	1.55	
Crude Fat ^b	g	22.5	22.5	
Linoleic acid	g	1.40	1.40	
alpha-Linolenic acid	g	0.05	ND ^c	
Arachidonic acid	g	0.05	0.05	
Eicosapentaenoic + Docosahexaenoic acid	g	0.03	ND ^c	
Minerals				
Calcium	g	2.5	1.5	
Phosphorus	g	2.0	1.25	
Potassium	g	1.5	1.5	
Sodium	g	0.5	0.5	
Chloride	g	0.75	0.75	
Magnesium ^d	g	0.20	0.10	
Iron ^e	mg	20.0	20.0	
Copper (extruded) ^f	mg	3.75	1.25	
Copper (canned) ^f	mg	2.10	1.25	
Manganese	mg	1.90	1.90	
Zinc	mg	18.8	18.8	
Iodine	mg	0.45	0.15	2.25
Selenium	mg	0.075	0.075	

(continued)

Nutrients	Units per 1000 kcal ME	Growth and Reproduction Minimum	Adult Maintenance Minimum^a	Maximum
Vitamins and Others				
Vitamin A	IU	1667	833	83325
Vitamin D	IU	70	70	7520
Vitamin E ^g	IU	10	10	
Vitamin K ^h	mg	0.025	0.025	
Thiamine ⁱ	mg	1.40	1.40	
Riboflavin	mg	1.00	1.00	
Pantothenic acid	mg	1.44	1.44	
Niacin	mg	15	15	
Pyridoxine	mg	1.0	1.0	
Folic acid	mg	0.20	0.20	
Biotin ^j	mg	0.018	0.018	
Vitamin B ₁₂	mg	0.005	0.005	
Choline	mg	600	600	
Taurine (extruded)	g	0.25	0.25	
Taurine (canned)	g	0.50	0.50	

^a Recommended concentrations for maintenance of body weight at an average caloric intake for cats of a given optimal weight.

^b Although a true requirement for crude fat per se has not been established, the minimum concentration was based on recognition of crude fat as a source of essential fatty acids, as a carrier of fat-soluble vitamins, to enhance palatability, and to supply an adequate caloric density.

^c ND – Not Determined.

^d 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.

^e Because of very poor bioavailability, iron from carbonate or oxide sources that are added to the diet should not be considered in determining the minimum nutrient concentration.

^f Because of very poor bioavailability, copper from oxide sources that are added to the diet should not be considered in determining the minimum nutrient concentration.

^g Add 10 IU Vitamin E above the minimum concentration for each gram of fish oil per kilogram of diet.

^h Vitamin K does not need to be added unless the diet contains more than 25% fish on a dry matter basis.

ⁱ Because processing and specific ingredients may destroy up to 90% of the thiamine in the diet, allowances in formulation should be made to ensure the minimum nutrient concentration is met after processing.

^j Biotin does not need to be added unless the diet contains antimicrobial or anti-vitamin compounds.