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Overview/description

Assessing alternative pet diets in clinic – A practical approach

- Overview of the growing use of unconventional diets (home-prepared, raw, and commercial fresh foods)
- Evidence-based framework for evaluating these diets in practice
- Focus on nutritional adequacy, safety, and individual suitability
- Application of a structured assessment approach through clinical examples and current research
- Identification of nutritional risks and gaps
- Guidance strategies to help clients with confidence and compassion toward optimal nutrition

Speaker's bio and credentials



Moran Tal-Gavriel, BSc, DVM, DVSc, Dipl. ECVCN, Board-Certified Veterinary Nutritionist

Dr. Tal-Gavriel is a board-certified specialist in veterinary and comparative nutrition with a background spanning clinical practice, public health, academic research, and the pet food industry. She holds a Doctor of Veterinary Science from the University of Guelph, where her research focused on feline obesity and gut microbiome. Dr. Tal-Gavriel has published in peer-reviewed journals and serves on advisory boards supporting graduate student development. Her experience includes a global role at Royal Canin in nutritional product development and international regulatory science advocacy. In 2024, she returned to clinical practice as a Veterinary Nutritionist at the Central Toronto Veterinary Referral Clinic and later founded VetWell Nutrition, offering expert services to veterinarians, pet owners, and pet food companies. She currently serves as Head of Veterinary Nutrition at Open Farm, where she leads evidence-based product innovation and supports nutritional excellence. Through her dual roles, Dr. Tal-Gavriel is dedicated to improving animal health and wellness with practical, science-based nutrition solutions.



Questionnaire

1. Which of the following best describes a fresh diet for pets?
 - ☐ Any diet stored at room temperature
 - ☒ Diets prepared with fresh ingredients, often refrigerated or frozen
 - ☐ Kibble with no preservatives
 - ☐ Diets containing supplements only
2. Which nutrient deficiency is most common in home-prepared feline diets?
 - ☐ Taurine
 - ☒ Choline
 - ☐ Vitamin A
 - ☐ Iodine
3. What proportion of alternative diets in Choi et al. 2023 met AAFCO standards (excluding selenium)?
 - ☐ 100%
 - ☐ 50%
 - ☒ 26%
 - ☐ 10%
4. True or False. Feeding bones is a safe way to provide calcium to pets.
 - ☐ True
 - ☒ False
5. What did Shmalberg (2019) find about home-prepared diets?
 - ☐ They are consistently balanced
 - ☐ They are all unsafe to feed
 - ☐ They are regulated by the FDA
 - ☒ They often lack key nutrients and have poor compliance
6. What is a frequent consequence of unbalanced home-prepared diets in puppies?
 - ☐ Diabetes
 - ☒ Nutritional secondary hyperparathyroidism
 - ☐ Obesity
 - ☐ Allergies



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7. A key consideration for homemade diets is:

- ☐ Ingredient variety only
- ☐ Feeding time of day
- ☐ Cooking method only
- ☒ Consistency in following the recipe and using supplements

8. Which mineral was deficient in nearly half of the alternative diets analyzed in Choi et al. (2023)?

- ☒ Zinc
- ☐ Sodium
- ☐ Potassium
- ☐ Magnesium

9. Which of the following nutrients was commonly found deficient in home-prepared diets for dogs and cats, as reported by multiple studies?

- ☐ Vitamin B12
- ☒ Vitamin D
- ☐ Vitamin C
- ☐ Omega-9 fatty acids

10. What is a critical safety concern when handling commercial fresh diets?

- ☐ Lack of preservatives
- ☐ Excess fibre content
- ☒ Temperature control during shipping and storage
- ☐ Packaging aesthetic



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PERSONAL INFORMATION:

First name:

Last name:

Type:

(Veterinarian, Technician)

Licence number:

Province where you practise:

Email:



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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Educational webcast

Assessing alternative pet diets in clinic – A practical approach

Presented by

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This document confirms that

Dr. Lorem Ipsum

has viewed the above-mentioned webcast and has answered and submitted the questionnaire meant to evaluate the understanding of the content.

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