

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | FOOD SAFETY & CONSUMER SERVICES DIVISION

Animal Feed Program | PO Box 42560 | Olympia, WA 98504-2589 | (360) 902-1844

Labeling Guide for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

ANIMAL FEED PROGRAM

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Labeling Guide for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food

INTRODUCTION

In order to distribute pet food or specialty pet food in Washington State, you must comply with local, state and federal laws and regulations. This guide provides the necessary information and guidelines to design and produce pet food labels that are accurate and consistent to properly inform pet owners of what they are feeding their pets. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) will only accept feed labels designed according to these guidelines.

You must register your pet food products, including treats, before you may sell or distribute them.

What is a pet food?

Pet food is defined as any commercial feed prepared and distributed for consumption by pets. "Pets" are defined as only dogs or cats. Specialty pets are defined below.

Pet food includes:

- Dry, wet, freeze-dried food, treats, biscuits, training foods, and sample sizes.
- Vitamins, minerals and supplements.
- Flavorings, such as gravies added to pets' food.
- Raw food ground or mixed with other ingredients.

Food intended for animals other than dogs or cats may require a specialty pet food registration or a commercial feed license.

Animals whose food requires a specialty pet food registration include but not limited to:

- Hamsters, gerbils, mice
- Aquarium fish
- Parrots, parakeets, finches
- Lizards, snakes, geckos
- Turtles

Animals whose food requires a commercial feed license include but not limited to:

- Horses
- Wild birds
- Goats, sheep
- Aquaculture
- Cows

The items listed below are currently exempt from pet food as long as the product labeling or advertising does not make any claim that the product is intended for use as an animal food or that the product provides an animal with any nutritional value.

- Chews, bones, toys and exercisers made of animal skin, hide, wood or man-made material
- Hooves
- Ears
- Animal bones
- Ligaments

Pet Food Labeling

Any commercial feed (including pet or specialty pet food) distributed in Washington State, except customer-formula feed, must be accompanied by a legible label.

The label must have the following information:

- Product and brand name.
- The species(s) for which it is intended.
- Quantity statement.
- Guaranteed analysis.
- Lot identifier.
- An ingredient statement with the common/usual or defined name of each ingredient used in the manufacturing of the commercial feed.
- Feeding directions.
- Name and address of the manufacturer or person responsible for distributing the product. (Must include street address, city, state and zip code. Street address may be omitted if company can be found in a printed or online directory.)
- Calorie content statement.

Ingredients must have an official definition in the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) publication.

However, if no official definition for an ingredient appears in the AAFCO official publication, an ingredient may be used if it:

- Has an AAFCO tentative definition.
- Is defined in WAC 16-252-008.
- Has a commonly accepted name that requires no definition, sugar for example.

Other Requirements

Specific requirements in WAC 16-252 apply to:

- Enzymatic activity (WAC 16-252-036(8))
- Drugs (WAC 16-252-094)
- Vitamins and supplements (WAC 16-252-036)

If your product makes **claims** to any of the above, review WAC 16-252 to ensure your label complies

Resources to review

- [Revised Code of Washington Chapter 15.53 \(RCW\)](#)
- [Washington Administrative Code Chapter 16-252 \(WAC\)](#)
- [AAFCO Official Publication](#)
- [FDA 21 CFR 500-599](#)



Applying and registering

After following all the labeling requirements, follow the steps below to register your product. WSDA will review your application and label to make sure they meet the state's laws and rules.

Complete the Application for Registration of Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food, [Form 4307A](#). Email the completed two-page application form with label(s) to petfood@agr.wa.gov.

Mail fees to:

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Animal Feed Program
PO Box 42591
Olympia WA 98504-2591

After you receive your 'Pet Food Registration Certificate' by email, listing approved products, you may distribute them in Washington State.

Registration is renewed on a two-year cycle that will be determined upon initial registration.

Contacts

- Email petfood@agr.wa.gov
- Call Animal Feed Program 360-902-1844
- For more information, visit the [Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food Product Registration page](#) on WSDA's website - agr.wa.gov

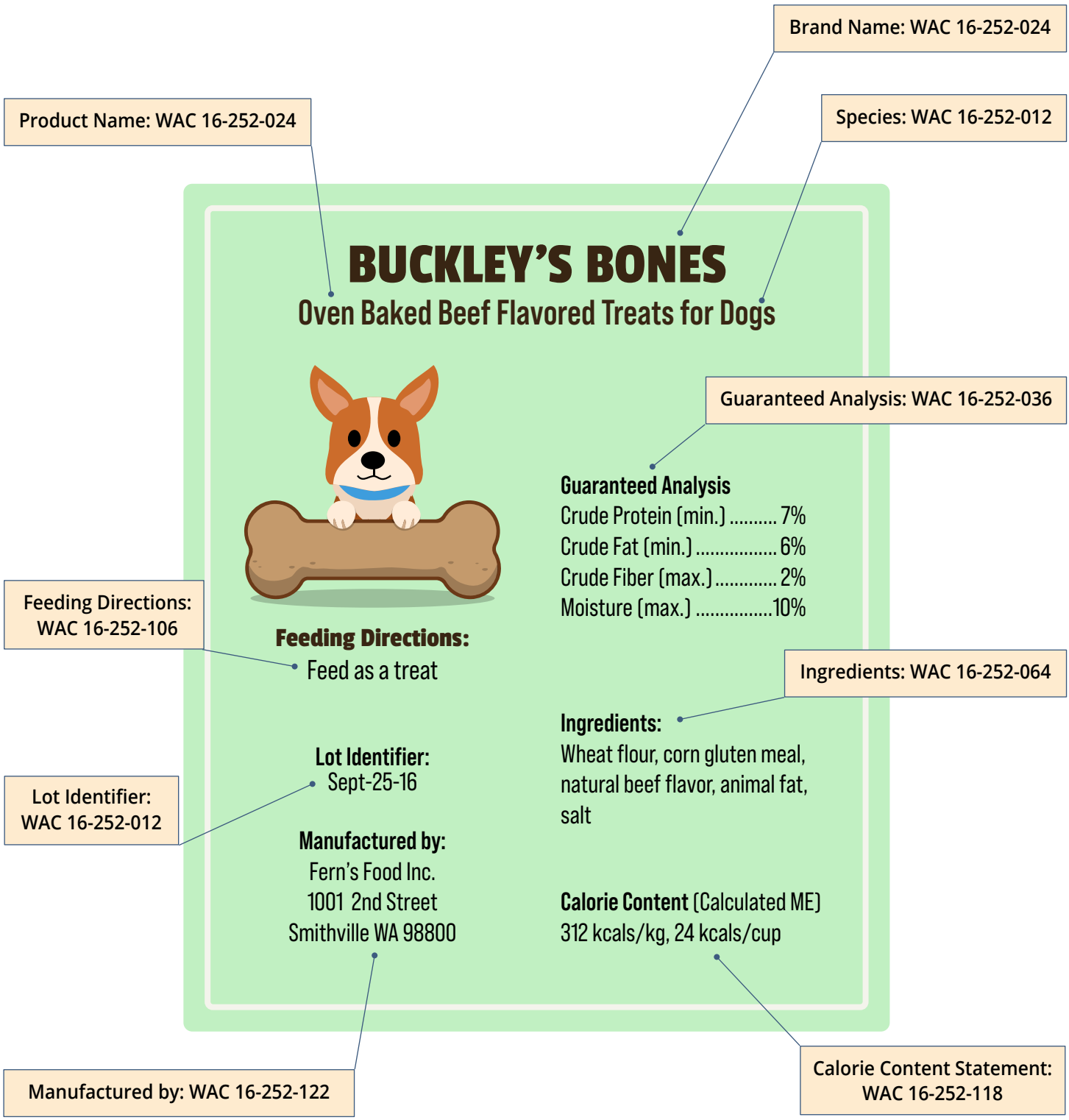


LABEL EXAMPLES

Front Label (Principal Display Panel)



Back Label (Principal Display Panel)



Front Label (Principal Display Panel)

Brand Name: WAC 16-252-024

Boo & Boots



Product Name: WAC 16-252-024

**Salmon & Tuna Recipe
Adult Cat Food**

Species: WAC 16-252-012

Net Wt. 5 lb (2.26 kg)

Quantity Statement: WAC 16-252-008

Back Label (Principal Display Panel)

