

THE CLEAN SIXTEEN™

2026's Highest-Rated Dry Cat Foods for Purity

clean
label
PROJECT®
Clean. Pure. Science.

The Clean Label Project® analyzed 100 of the nation's top-selling cat food products across 62 brands to uncover what traditional nutrition labels miss: hidden contaminants like heavy metals, phthalates, pesticide and herbicide residues, and processing by-products.

After testing for more than 122 environmental and industrial contaminants and toxins, these 16 dry and freeze-dried cat foods rose to the top—delivering exceptional purity and safety for your feline family member.

-  **Protein Source Rules:** Nearly 85% of poultry-based cat foods met Clean Label Project's purity standard, compared with just 1 in 4 fish and seafood products—making poultry recipes 3.3x as likely to make the cut.
-  **Lead Watch:** Dry cat food carried roughly 3x more lead than wet or air-dried formats—and the difference wasn't tied to any single ingredient. These 16 products prove that lower levels are achievable.
-  **Read Past the First Ingredient:** In more than a third of products tested, the first-listed ingredient was outnumbered by other ingredient types in the top ten—a practice known as “ingredient splitting.” Products where plant ingredients outnumbered the named meat carried more lead.
-  **Plants Carry Herbicides:** Each additional plant ingredient among the first ten on the label was associated with about 40% higher glyphosate levels. Simple, meat-forward recipes tested cleaner.

What Makes These Dry Cat Foods Stand Out?



- Lowest levels of heavy metals—including lead, the category's biggest dry-food concern
- Exceptional performance across all six contaminant panels tested
- Meat-forward, transparent ingredient lists without long strings of plant fillers
- Kibble and freeze-dried options proving every format can deliver a cleaner bowl

Whether you scoop kibble or serve freeze-dried, these are the best choices for a **cleaner, safer bowl.**



BIXBI



Rawbble Turkey Recipe
Poultry | Freeze-Dried

BOSS CAT



Complete & Balanced Boss Pork Recipe
Pork | Freeze-Dried

FRESH IS BEST



Freeze-Dried Cat Food — Chicken Recipe
Poultry | Freeze-Dried

GREEN JUJU



Duck & Sardine Recipe
Poultry & Fish | Freeze-Dried

HILL'S



Science Diet Adult 1-6 Chicken Recipe
Poultry | Kibble

KIRKLAND SIGNATURE



Chicken & Rice
Poultry | Kibble

MCLOVIN'S



Purrfect Poultry Recipe
Poultry | Freeze-Dried

NATURAL PET FOOD GROUP



New Zealand Chicken Feast
Poultry | Air-Dried

NULO



Freestyle Chicken & Salmon Recipe
Poultry & Fish | Freeze-Dried

PURPOSE PET FOOD



Carnivore Duck
Poultry | Freeze-Dried

SMALLBATCH



Freeze-Dried Meal Bites — Turkey Recipe
Poultry | Freeze-Dried

STELLA & CHEWY'S



Duck Duck Goose
Poultry | Freeze-Dried

STELLA & CHEWY'S



Tummy Ticklin' Turkey
Poultry | Freeze-Dried

VITAL ESSENTIALS



Rabbit Entree
Rabbit | Freeze-Dried

WERUVA



Paw Lickin' Chicken
Poultry | Freeze-Dried

WHOLE LIFE



Nature's Remedy Recover Stomach Distress
Poultry | Freeze-Dried

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