

Proposal to Modernize Pet Food Regulation

What the PURR Act does and does not do

The current two-tiered U.S. pet food regulatory system between states and federal government was developed more than 100 years ago for animal feed. Dogs and cats are seen as companion animals and family members. There are also very few similarities between the foods we feed our pets, and livestock feed. The pet food regulatory system, however, has not evolved to address the challenges of today's rapidly growing pet food market. [U.S. pet food makers and consumers need a regulatory system that better meets the needs of today's pet and pet owners.](#)

What the proposed legislation does:

- Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act).
- Preempts any state government from requiring label reviews or premarket approval.
- Requires the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) to conduct and coordinate timely science-based reviews of pet food ingredient submissions and submit a yearly report to Congress on performance metrics.
- Permits ingredients identified as accepted for use in pet food under chapter 6 of the American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) *Official Publication* to continue to be lawfully used and deemed generally recognized as safe (GRAS).
- Permits current claims, such as tartar control, human grade, natural and others to continue to be used and be regulated by FDA CVM.

What the proposed legislation does not do:

- It does not affect the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Congress has given FDA the authority to regulate food safety. This is done proactively through compliance with FSMA, which is already a federal requirement.
- It does not change or impact FDA's regulation of pet food safety in any way.
- It does not affect the Food Additive Petition (FAP) process, GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe) determination process, or the AAFCO ingredient approval process.
- It does not impact state regulation and oversight or the ingredient approval process of commercial feed for livestock and specialty pet food under existing state feed laws.
- It does not impact state safety inspections of facilities under FSMA.
- It does not prohibit any cooperative agreements between FDA and states.

The proposed bill language solely impacts pet food label reviews and codifies ingredients and marketing claims in the AAFCO *Official Publication*.
It does not impact food safety or nutrition.