

CAT CHAT® – CAT FOOD SUPERMARKET BRANDS

Think of this list as “second best.” These foods cannot compare to the ones on the premium list. These are acceptable foods but please note that many of these foods contain beef, fish, “meat” (of unknown origin), and often some carbohydrates as grains. These brands may be inappropriate for cats with food allergies or gastro-intestinal disorders. Also note that fish is a less costly ingredient and often used in the lower quality foods and is an ingredient that should be fed sparingly in a cat’s diet – no more than 3 times a week- no matter what brand. However, cat foods with fish can serve as an excellent tool for transitioning cats off of “kitty crack” and on to canned food. Likewise, some cats can get “hooked” on liver in canned food and refuse other ingredients, so it should not be fed in large amounts or too frequently. .

Lynette of Feline Outreach reads all the cans at the supermarket and here are her personal favorites for the person on a budget - and what she often uses for her foster cats.

NOTE: THIS LIST IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF ALL PRODUCTS MADE BY THESE BRANDS. IN FACT, ONLY THE EXACT FLAVORS MENTIONED ARE ACCEPTABLE. MANY OF THE BRANDS LISTED HERE USE INGREDIENTS THAT ARE NOT IN YOUR CAT’S BEST INTEREST.

* **Whiskas Savory Ground Pate** – Chicken Dinner; Mealtime; Bits o’ Beef; Turkey & Giblets (not the Whiskas in gravy – the savory ground pate is grain and vegetable free, and the "chicken & tuna" works well for transitioning cats to canned)

* **9-Lives** - Chicken Dinner, Supper Supper, Chicken & Beef Dinner, Chicken & Tuna Dinner, Turkey Dinner, Chicken & Seafood Dinner, Liver & Bacon Dinner, Prime Grill with Beef

* **Happy Tails** – Chicken Dinner, Chicken & Tuna Dinner, Mixed Grill, Super Combo, Turkey & Giblets Dinner, Salmon Dinner (any of the flavors not in gravy) – This is Jewel’s store brand - Jewel is a large grocery store chain in the Midwest

* **Friskies** – Supreme Supper; Mixed Grill; Country Style Dinner; Poultry Platter; Turkey & Giblets Dinner

* **Trader Joe’s** – Chicken, Turkey & Rice; Turkey & Giblets; Oceanfish, Salmon & Rice; Tongol Tuna & Shrimp; Tongol Tuna & Crab; Seafood Medley; Tuna Dinner - All excellent for transitioning cats to canned food. The chicken and turkey flavors are usually appropriate for regular feeding. Although the first three flavors contain grains, it is a small amount and seems tolerated by many of the diabetics and cats with gastro-intestinal disorders I have worked with. The first three flavors have a smooth texture similar to a/d, so they will work for syringe-feeding inappetent cats (those with no appetite).

* **Pro Plan** – Adult chicken & liver entrée; adult turkey & giblets entree

* **Fancy Feast Gourmet Feast** – Almost all flavors in the gourmet feast line are low in carbohydrates (grain and vegetable free): Gourmet Chicken Feast; Gourmet Turkey & Giblets Feast; Tender Beef Feast; Tender Beef & Liver Feast; Savory Salmon Feast; Tender Chicken & Liver Feast; Beef & Chicken Feast; Chopped Grill Feast

* **Fancy Feast Flaked** – Fish & Shrimp Feast (this is good for transition)

Note about avoiding Fancy Feast "Elegant Medleys": I recommend *avoiding* these on principle – adding unnecessary vegetables to their food appears to be their competitive answer to the popularity of foods like Merrick, Halo and Wellness. Added vegetables should *not* be why people are buying those premium foods, since the cat is an *obligate carnivore* who needs no vegetables and fruit at all. The reason to buy those “top shelf” brands and tolerate the vegetables is because you want to give your cat high quality meat, and know they contain no "meat" of unknown origin, and no "byproducts."

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