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Nutritional composition and label evaluation of super premium and premium dog food

Adriana A. Pereira*¹, Maria D. S. Santos¹, Rafael J. S. Valentim¹, Edmundo F. Cardoso Neto¹,
Vitor V. S. Almeida¹, Carolyny B. Lima¹

¹Federal University of Alagoas/Campus Arapiraca, Arapiraca/AL, Brazil; *corresponding author:
adri_zoo@hotmail.com

Dry pet foods on the market are divided into commercial categories, distinguished by the quality of the raw materials used in their manufacture. Due to the lack of guidelines and standards establishing the standards that dry foods must follow, coupled with inefficient oversight, there may be discrepancies between the nutritional concentrations reported by the manufacturer on the label and the actual concentrations in the food. The aim was to evaluate the nutritional composition of industrialized dry dog foods for adult dogs, in the super premium and premium categories, comparing the analyzed results with the information declared on their labels and the limits established by current Brazilian legislation. Two categories of adult dog food (super premium and premium) and four different brands were used, totaling eight evaluated foods. The evaluated foods were ground in a mill with a 1mm sieve and processed in duplicate in the Animal Nutrition laboratory of UFAL/Campus Arapiraca to determine the levels of crude protein, ether extract, ash, moisture, and crude fiber. The values observed in the analyses were compared with the values declared on the label by the manufacturer, all based on dry matter, adopting a tolerance of 10%. Additionally, the results were compared with the minimum or maximum values allowed by current legislation (BRAZIL, 2003). The obtained data were properly organized and tabulated for descriptive statistical interpretation. When analyzing the moisture data, it was observed that all samples had values on the label close to those observed in the analyses and below 12%. For crude protein, all foods had values above 23%, higher than the required minimum of 16%. However, in one super premium food, the protein level on the label was 16.5% higher than that found in laboratory analyses. The ether extract values for super premium diets were above 12.5% and for premium diets above 6.5%, both categories within the legislation, which stipulates a minimum limit of 4.5%. However, in five brands, the values presented on the labels were higher than the observed values, worsening this variation in premium foods, which had up to a 50% variation. Regarding crude fiber, all diets were compliant, below 6.5%. However, the discrepancy between declared and observed values reached 61%. When analyzing ash, all diets had values below 12%, as required, but one premium diet contained 11% ash on the label, based on natural matter, which when converted to dry matter was 12.22%. Additionally, in three diets, from both categories, the analyses showed values well discrepant from those listed on the labels, reaching a 32% variation. It is concluded that all super premium and premium diets evaluated presented nutritional values in accordance with current legislation; however, in both categories, values over 10% difference between the analyzed values and the values described on the labels for crude protein, ether extract, crude fiber, and ash were observed.

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