

granulados es muy conocida en la técnica y el experto puede elegir entre múltiples formulaciones y procesos para preparar dichos productos.

Los gatos son carnívoros altamente especializados, con elevados requisitos de proteínas, como se refleja en su percepción gustativa. La grasa es un importante componente dietario que también proporciona variaciones de textura y gusto a los granulados. Las grasas pueden ser proporcionadas por diferentes fuentes, ya sea como grasas exógenas y/o grasas proporcionadas por materiales alimentarios o ingredientes alimentarios como carnes, harinas de carnes, etc.

En la actualidad, las composiciones que mejoran la palatabilidad, que se añaden mediante la inclusión a los granulados y/o recubrimiento de ellos, siguen siendo el factor clave esencial para obtener un nivel elevado de consumo de alimento para mascotas por parte de los animales. De hecho, casi todos los alimentos para mascotas en el mercado contienen composiciones que mejoran la palatabilidad a fin de aumentar su palatabilidad, y para hacerlos más atractivos para las mascotas. Por lo tanto, una gran cantidad de composiciones que mejoran la palatabilidad se ha descrito hasta el momento.

Los documentos US 2005/106285 y US 2005/170067 divulgan una composición que mejora la palatabilidad para alimento extrudido para mascotas que contiene al menos un ingrediente seleccionado de productos cárnicos, productos secundarios cárnicos, productos de pescados, productos secundarios del pescado, productos lácteos, productos lácteos secundarios, fuentes de proteína microbiana, proteínas vegetales, carbohidratos y aminoácidos y cualquiera de al menos una sal de triopolifosfato (US 2005/106285) o al menos una sal de pyrofosfato potásico (US 2005/170067).

El documento 2015/056347 divulga una composición que mejora la palatabilidad que incluye un aroma de alimento seco y un mejorador de palatabilidad para mejorar su atracción para los dueños de mascotas, al mismo tiempo que mantiene una palatabilidad satisfactoria para las mascotas.

El documento 2006/228448 divulga una composición de alimento para mascotas que comprende un primer componente que comprende una fuente de

proteína, una fuente de grasa y una fuente de carbohidratos, y un segundo componente que comprende un producto biológico.

- El documento US 2008/085350 divulga un método para preparar un mejorador de palatabilidad para alimentos de mascotas, en donde se combina un
- 5 aroma químico específico combinado con una composición de digesto vegetariano.

El documento US 2015/237887 divulga el uso de una composición de grasa particular para sostener una palatabilidad mejorada de un alimento para mascotas en el transcurso del tiempo.

- Aún existe una continua necesidad por granulados para gatos que
- 10 tienen una formulación que es intrínseca y altamente palatable para los gatos, y dicha palatabilidad intrínseca y elevada mejora en forma opcional mediante la adición de una o más composiciones que mejoran la palatabilidad en ellos o sobre ellos.

La presente invención aquí se proporciona nuevas formulaciones de granulados que se han seleccionado por su capacidad para proporcionar palatabilidad para los gatos.

5

BREVE DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA INVENCION

La presente invención se refiere a un granulado para gatos que comprende al menos:

- 10 a) un material animal A que comprende una fracción de grasa endógena Fa,
- b) una grasa animal exógena Fb,
- c) un material vegetal C que comprende una fracción de grasa endógena Fc,

15 en donde dicho granulado para gatos comprende al menos 2.0% de grasa exógena Fb en peso de granulado para gatos, en donde la proporción R1 de Fa/Fb varía desde 0.7 a 2.5,

y en donde la proporción R2 de (Fa + Fb)/Fc varía desde 6.0 a 13.0.

La presente invención también se refiere a un método para preparar un granulado para gatos, que comprende al menos los pasos de:

- 20 (i) proporcionar al menos un material animal A, una grasa animal exógena Fb y un material vegetal C,
- (ii) mezclar dicho al menos material animal A y dicho material vegetal C, y obtener de ese modo una primera mezcla,

EJEMPLO 5

- Los alimentos balanceados nutricionalmente para gatos en la forma de granulados recubiertos para gatos se prepararon con los mismos ingredientes que en el Ejemplo 3, de acuerdo con el proceso mencionado en el párrafo 1.1. En algunos de estos granulados para gatos, se incorporó grasa animal exógena. La Tabla 14 presenta la formulación de cada granulado para gatos.

Tabla 14

Composición de los ingredientes (%)	Alimento 13	Alimento 14
Material vegetal (arroz, gluten de maíz, maíz, fuente de fibra)	52.3	49.6
Material animal (productos secundarios de harina de aves, chicharrones, producto secundario de levadura de cerveza, productos secundarios de harina de pescado)	43.1	40.9
premezcla para gatos (vitaminas, minerales, aminoácidos)	4.6	4.4
grasa animal exógena	-	5.1
Fa	81.0%	
Fb	0%	
Fc	19.0%	
Fa / Fb (R1)	nd	1.16
(Fa+Fb) / Fc (R2)	4.26	13.39

- (i) La prueba comparativa se llevó a cabo además para comparar la palatabilidad para los gatos de los Alimentos 13, 14 en comparación con el control súper premium (SP). Los resultados se presentan en la Tabla 15.

Tabla 15

Alimento A	Alimento B	Proporción de consumo		Significancia estadística
		% A	% B	
Alimento 13	Control SP	27	73	***
Alimento 14	Control SP	27	73	***

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(PCT Rule 71.1)

To:

Regimbeau
20, rue de Chazelles
75847 Paris Cedex 17
FRANCE

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

12.04.2018

Applicant's or agent's file reference
B372044D3600

BC

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/EP2017/054960

International filing date (day/month/year)
02.03.2017

Priority date (day/month/year)
02.03.2016

Applicant
Spécialités Pet Food

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary report on patentability and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international
preliminary examining authority:



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference B372044D3600	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416																								
International application No. PCT/EP2017/054960	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 02.03.2017	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 02.03.2016																									
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. A23K50/42																											
Applicant Spécialités Pet Food																											
1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. 3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. ☒ (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>8</u> sheets, as follows: ☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority, unless those sheets were superseded or cancelled, and any accompanying letters (see Rules 46.5, 66.8, 70.16, 91.2, and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). ☐ sheets containing rectifications, where the decision was made by this Authority not to take them into account because they were not authorized by or notified to this Authority at the time when this Authority began to draw up this report, and any accompanying letters (Rules 66.4bis, 70.2(e), 70.16 and 91.2). ☐ superseded sheets and any accompanying letters, where this Authority either considers that the superseding sheets contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, or the superseding sheets were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box (see Rule 70.16(b)). b. ☐ (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing, in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see paragraph 3ter of Annex C of the Administrative Instructions).																											
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10px;">☒</td> <td style="width: 100px;">Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐</td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐</td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐</td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☒</td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐</td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐</td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐</td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>				☒	Box No. I	Basis of the report	☐	Box No. II	Priority	☐	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	☐	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	☒	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	☐	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	☐	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	☐	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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☐	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention																									
☒	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																									
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☐	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application																									
Date of submission of the demand 06.07.2017		Date of completion of this report 12.04.2018																									
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized officer Popa, Marian Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7829																									



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2017/054960

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on
- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a) and (b))
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

1, 3-29, 31-34	as originally filed	
2, 2a, 30	filed in electronic form on	06-07-2017

Claims, Numbers

1-12	filed in electronic form on	06-07-2017
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- ☐ a sequence listing - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since either they are considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, or they were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rules 70.2(c) and (c-bis)):
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
5. ☐ This report has been established:
- ☐ taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rules 66.1(d-bis) and 70.2(e)).
 - ☐ without taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91(Rules 66.4bis and 70.2(e)).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2017/054960

6. ☒ With regard to top-up searches (Rules 66.1 *ter* and 70.2(f)):
- ☒ A top-up search was carried out by this Authority on 23.02.2018 (all discovered documents are listed in the Supplemental Box Relating to Top-up Search).
 - ☐ Additional relevant documents have been discovered during the top-up search.
 - ☐ No top-up search was carried out by this Authority because it would serve no useful purpose.
7. ☐ Supplementary international search report(s) from Authority(ies) has/have been received and taken into account in establishing this report (Rule 45bis.8(b) and (c)).

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded".

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-12</u>
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-12</u>
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-12</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1 US 2005/106285 A1 (LEE YANIEN [US] ET AL) 19 May 2005
- D2 US 2015/056347 A1 (FOURNIER MAGALI [FR] ET AL) 26 February 2015
- D3 US 2006/228448 A1 (BOILEAU THOMAS W [US] ET AL) 12 October 2006
- D4 US 2005/170067 A1 (SHAO CHEN C [US] ET AL) 4 August 2005
- D5 US 2008/085350 A1 (SHI ZULIN [US] ET AL) 10 April 2008
- D6 US 2015/237887 A1 (CALLEJON LAURENCE [FR] ET AL) 27 August 2015

The amendments resulted in the restriction of the claimed subject-matter to one independent claim per category.

Additionally, the amendments resulted in further restrictions of the claimed ranges (support in dependent claims, now deleted, and/or description p. 11).

The requirements of Art. 34(2)(b) PCT are thus fulfilled.

Novelty

The combination of parameters, ranges and values allows the subject-matter of each independent claim to be considered novel over the available prior art documents.

The distinctive features of all independent claims over the individual disclosure of D1-D6, each of them being suitable as a starting point, is the presence of two ratios, R1 and R2, based on the fat contents of each of the fat types, Fa, Fb and Fc.

The problem stated in the application, namely to impart a high degree of palatability to the pet food, was also mentioned and solved in each of D1-D6. The application suggest that the specific choice of said parameters a higher palatability is achieved.

Consequently, in view of the said differences, the objective problem may be formulated as the provision of a formula with an improved palatability.

The skilled person may try to adjust the ratios between the fat ingredients as disclosed *eg* in D1, yet he has no incentive for instance to change the composition with respect to fats, or their ratios, but instead one's prompted to work on other premix compositions imparting the desired palatability.

D4 is another very close document, and similarly to D1, also prompts the skilled artisan towards premixes not towards fats and their combinations.

Per se, the examples show that the formulas falling under the claimed scope do present a higher palatability compared to the ones outside this scope.

The requirements of Art. 33(3) PCT are therefore met.

Since the product of claim 1 is both novel and inventive, the other independent claims, products or obtention processes, based on the formulas as in claim 1 inherit the patentability of claim 1.

Dependent claims

Dependent claims also inherit the patentability of claim 1.

Online filing

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE
P.B. 5818
Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV RIJSWIJK
THE NETHERLANDS

Paris, July 5, 2017

PCT application N° EP2017/054960 of March 2, 2017

In the name of : SPECIALITES PET FOOD

Title : PALATABLE CAT KIBBLES CONTAINING SPECIFIC FAT FRACTIONS

Our ref. : B372044 D36000 - BC

Dear Sirs,

We herein refer to the Notification of transmittal of the International Search Report (ISR) and the Written Opinion dated May 22, 2017, concerning the above-mentioned International Application.

We respectfully request for International Preliminary Examination.

Please find hereby-submitted claim amendments and comments on patentability thereof, in response to the outstanding Written Opinion.

In addition, please find herewith-enclosed new pages of the description; comments thereon are provided below.

I. Claim amendments:

1.1. In the herewith-enclosed new set of 12 claims:

- Claims 1 to 6 have been maintained to define the cat kibble according to the invention;
- New claim 7 has been added: this dependent claim relates to a particular embodiment of the cat kibble of the invention, that is the coated cat kibble as supported by the entire disclosure of the application as filed;
- New claims 8 to 10 correspond to previous claims 7 to 9 relating to a method for preparing the cat kibble of the invention;
- New claim 11 relates to a particular embodiment of the method of the invention, further including a step of coating the cat kibble;
- Previous claims 11, 13, and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice; and
- Claim 12 has been made dependent on the appropriate claim for the cat kibble or for the method.

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- 1.2. We respectfully consider that this new set of 12 claims is well supported by the content of the application as filed.

II. Patentability of the new set of claims:

- 2.1. Novelty and inventive step are acknowledged in the Written Opinion.
- 2.2. In response to Item VII, it is respectfully submitted that the number of independent claims has been reduced to comply with the formal PCT requirements.
We thus consider that the new set of 12 claims is formally acceptable.

III. Amendments to the description:

- 3.1. In response to Item VIII of the Written Opinion, please find herewith-enclosed new pages 2 and 2a of the description wherein the technical teaching of prior art documents D1 to D6 has been briefly described.

- 3.2. Request to rectify an obvious mistake:

Pursuant to Rule 91.1(b)iii) PCT, we respectfully ask the International Preliminary Examination Authority to authorize rectification of an obvious mistake on page 30 of the description as detailed below.

A replacement page 30 is herewith-enclosed.

- 3.2.1. Table 14 of Example 5 shows the formulation of particular cat kibbles. Concerning Diet 14, Table 14 provides ingredient composition (%) in terms of vegetable material / animal material / cat premix / exogenous animal fat contents. Table 14 also provides % values for Fa, Fb, Fc on the one hand, and values for the R1 and R2 ratios on the other hand.
- 3.2.2. Example 5 concludes that Diets 13 and 14, as they are out of the invention, were less consumed than the cat food control even when exogenous fat was incorporated (this specifically concerns Diet 14). Example 5 aims at demonstrating that the addition of exogenous fat while not complying with the claimed ratios R1 and R2 does not enable to achieve palatability enhancement.
- 3.2.3. Upon reading Example 5, the skilled artisan thus understands that at least one of the R1 and R2 values for Diet 14 is intended to be out of the claimed ratio, contrary to the specific R1 and R2 values set forth in Table 14 which are both fulfilling the claimed ranges.

Bearing this obvious mistake in mind, the skilled artisan can refer to Table 1

(page 22) which gives a complete overview of all ratio values of the Diets used in the Examples.

In Table 1, the R1 and R2 values for Diet 14 of Example 5 are 1.16 and 13.39, respectively. Accordingly, R2 is out of the claimed range. The skilled artisan thus understands that nothing else than the R1 and R2 values given in Table 1 could have been intended in connection with Diet 14 in light of the conclusions drawn in Example 5.

3.2.4. Since the R1 and R2 values disclosed in Table 14 are obviously erroneous, it is further obvious that the values for Fa, Fb, Fc in said Table 14 are also erroneous and cannot be relied upon.

3.2.5. In conclusion, as provided by Rule 91.1(c) PCT, it is respectfully asked to the International Preliminary Examination Authority to authorize the hereby-requested rectification consisting of suppressing erroneous Fa, Fb, and Fc values for Diet 14 in Table 14, and replacing erroneous values for R1 and R2 of Diet 14 in this very same Table by the correct values set forth in the summarizing Table 1 on page 22.

IV. Conclusions

In conclusion, we respectfully ask the International Preliminary Examination Authority to acknowledge the patentability of the appended amended claims and to authorize the rectification of an obvious mistake on page 30 of the description.

In case the International Preliminary Examination Authority would not be convinced by the present response, issuance of a second Written Opinion is respectfully solicited to enable us to further responsive comments.

Very Truly Yours,


Barbara CASADEWALL
Association No. 463

Encl.: - New set of 12 claims (2 copies including 1 with tracked amendments);
- New pages 2-2a and 30 (2 copies including 1 with tracked amendments);
- EPI request.

kibbles is well known in the art and the skilled person has the choice between multiple formulations and processes for preparing such products.

Cats are highly specialised carnivores, with high protein requirements, as reflected by their taste perception. Fat is an important dietary component which also provides taste and textural variations to kibbles. Fats can be provided by different sources, either as exogenous fats and/or fats brought by food materials or food ingredients such as meats, meat meals etc.

As for today, palatability-enhancing compositions, which are added by inclusion and/or by coating to the kibbles, stay the essential key factor for obtaining high level of pet food consumption by animals. Indeed, almost all of the commercialized pet foods contain palatability-enhancing compositions in order to increase the palatability thereof, and to make them appealing to pets. A large number of palatability enhancing compositions have thus been described so far.

US 2005/106285 and US 2005/170067 disclose a palatability-enhancing composition for extruded pet food containing at least one ingredient selected from meat products, meat by-products, fish products, fish by-products, dairy products, dairy by-products, sources of microbial proteins, vegetable proteins, carbohydrates and amino acids, and either at least one tripolyphosphate salt (US 2005/106285) or at least one potassium pyrophosphate salt (US 2005/170067).

US 2015/056347 discloses a palatability-enhancing composition including a dry food aroma and a palatability enhancer for improving appeal to pet owners while maintaining satisfying palatability to pets.

US 2006/228448 discloses a pet food composition comprising a first component comprising a source of protein, a source of fat, and a source of carbohydrate, and a second component comprising a biologic.

US 2008/085350 discloses a method for producing a pet food palatability enhancer wherein a specific aroma chemical is combined with an animal or vegetarian digest composition.

US 2015/237887 discloses the use of a particular fat composition for sustaining an enhanced palatability of a pet food over time.

There is still a continuous need for cat kibbles that having a formulation that is intrinsically highly palatable to cats, said intrinsic high palatability being optionally further enhanced by adding one or more palatability-enhancing compositions therein or thereon.

The present invention here provides new kibble formulations that have been selected for their ability to provide palatability to cats.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention concerns a cat kibble comprising at least:

- 5 a) an animal material A comprising an endogenous fat fraction F_a ,
 b) an exogenous animal fat F_b ,
 c) a vegetable material C comprising an endogenous fat fraction F_c ,
 wherein said cat kibble comprises at least 2.0% of exogenous fat F_b by weight of cat
 kibble, wherein the ratio R_1 of F_a/F_b ranges from 0.7 to 2.5,
10 and wherein the ratio R_2 of $(F_a + F_b)/F_c$ ranges from 6.0 to 13.0.

The present invention also concerns a method for preparing a cat kibble, comprising at least the steps of:

- (i) providing at least an animal material A, an exogenous animal fat F_b and a vegetable
 material C,
15 (ii) mixing said at least animal material A and said vegetable material C, thereby
 obtaining a first mixture,

EXAMPLE 5

Nutritionally-balanced cat food diets in the form of coated cat kibbles were prepared with the same ingredients than in Example 3, according to the process mentioned in paragraph 1.1. In some of these cat kibbles, exogenous animal fat was incorporated. Table 14 presents the formulation of each cat kibble.

Table 14

Ingredients composition (%)	Diet 13	Diet 14
Vegetable material (rice, corn gluten, corn, fiber source)	52.3	49.6
Animal material (poultry meal by-products, greaves, brewer's yeast by-product, fish meal by-products)	43.1	40.9
cat premix (vitamins, minerals, amino acids)	4.6	4.4
exogenous animal fat	-	5.1
Fa	81.0%	
Fb	0%	
Fc	19.0%	
Fa / Fb (R1)	nd	1.16
(Fa+Fb) / Fc (R2)	4.26	13.39

(i) Versus test were further performed to compare palatability to cats of the Diets 13, 14 versus the super premium control (SP). The results are presented in Table 15.

Table 15

Food A	Food B	Consumption Ratio		Statistical significance
		% A	% B	
Diet 13	SP control	27	73	***
Diet 14	SP control	27	73	***

CLAIMS

1. A cat kibble comprising at least :
 - a) an animal material A comprising an endogenous fat fraction Fa,
 - 5 b) an exogenous animal fat Fb,
 - c) a vegetable material C comprising an endogenous fat fraction Fc,wherein said cat kibble comprises at least 2.0% of exogenous fat Fb by weight of cat kibble,
wherein the ratio R1 of Fa/Fb ranges from 0.7 to 2.5,
and wherein the ratio R2 of (Fa + Fb)/Fc ranges from 6.0 to 13.0.
- 10 2. The cat kibble according to claim 1, wherein the ratio R2 of (Fa + Fb)/Fc ranges from 6.0 to 12.0.
- 15 3. The cat kibble according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said animal material A is selected from the group consisting of fresh meats, animal meals, whole dried eggs, animal proteins, animal digests, milk or derivatives, yeasts, and combinations thereof.
- 20 4. The cat kibble according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said exogenous animal fat Fb is selected from the group consisting of poultry fat, chicken fat, pork fat, lamb tallow, beef tallow, marine oils, and combinations thereof.
- 25 5. The cat kibble according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said vegetable material C is selected from the group consisting of rice, corn, soy, chicory, wheat, pea, and combinations thereof.
- 30 6. The cat kibble according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said cat kibble further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of nutrients, palatability enhancing compositions, antioxidants, preservatives, surfactants, texturing or texturizing, stabilizing agents, amino acids, vitamins, colouring agents, flavors, seasonings, and combinations thereof.
7. The cat kibble according to any one of claims 1 to 6, which is further coated with a cat kibble coating.

8. A method for preparing a cat kibble according to any one of claims 1 to 7, comprising at least the steps of:
- (i) providing at least an animal material A, an exogenous animal fat Fb and a vegetable material C,
 - 5 (ii) mixing said at least animal material A and said vegetable material C, thereby obtaining a first mixture,
 - (iii) optionally precooking said first mixture in a preconditioner, thereby obtaining a precooked mixture,
 - (iv) extruding said first mixture or said precooked mixture, thereby obtaining an extrudate,
 - 10 (v) drying said extrudate, thereby obtaining said cat kibble,
- wherein said exogenous fat Fb is added during step (ii) and/or during step (iii) and/or step (iv).
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said step (i) comprises a step (i1) of providing
15 said animal material A and exogenous animal fat Fb in a first package, preferably in different containers, and a step (i2) of providing said vegetable material C in a second package.
10. The method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein a first part of said exogenous fat Fb is added
20 during step (iii) and a second part of said exogenous fat Fb is added during step (iv).
11. The method according to any one of claims 8 to 10, further comprising at least the step of coating said cat kibble with a cat kibble coating, thereby obtaining a coated cat kibble.
- 25 12. The cat kibble according to claim 7 or the method according to claim 11, wherein said cat kibble coating is a fat and/or a palatability-enhancing composition.

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