



# LAKES

## ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 11, Issue 7  
July 2012

Official Newsletter  
[www.lakesoneldridge.net](http://www.lakesoneldridge.net)

## RECYCLING DAY!

*(editor's note, July's printed article regarding Recycling Day was incorrect. Please note the correct article below and date of August 18th, 2012.)*

Do you have old electronics, batteries, or tons of paper that you need to get rid of? Do you just throw them all away in the trash can? On Saturday August 18, 2012 come and Recycle these items at the Lakes on Eldridge Beach Club from 8:00am till Noon. Electronics include items such as a TV (fee), radio, computers, telephones, fax machines, video games, circuit boards, laptops, hard drives, CD's, printers, calculators, remote controls, and more. There will be paper shredding for financial documents and the like. All you have to do is bring your recycle goods to the LOE Club House and we'll do the rest.

It is very important to recycle in the community because we need to maintain a healthy environment by reusing goods rather than wasting precious natural resources. Burning garbage or throwing waste into landfills produces byproducts that pollute the environment. Runoff from the landfills and metals like mercury find their way into streams, rivers, oceans, and fish which eventually are consumed and can harm our health. Also, you are saving huge amounts of money each year by recycling paper, cans, electronics, and batteries.

Recycling is not hard at all. If you have papers that can't be disposed in our regular Waste Management green bins then put them in a separate bag or box and bring it on down to the Club House Saturday morning, August 18th, 2012. Save all your old electronics, papers, and batteries and enjoy a one stop recycling opportunity. We will be waiting to help you unload your recycle goods. While you wait, we will be providing yummy brownies and cold refreshments at the Club House.

### LOE COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

While you are recycling your old items, the Social Committee is sponsoring a LOE Community Service Day. We invite everyone to please come inside and meet your AMI community representatives and LOE Board Members. We will have information on the LOE website, LOE vehicle stickers, and gate remotes available for purchase. Hope to see you there! LOE also has many clubs and activities such as the Tennis Club, Stitchers, Bible Study, Bunko, Pet Safety, Swim Team, Book Club, MotherWise, Wildlife Committee, and Yoga, to mention a few. We will also have representatives of each group so you can explore how you can meet your neighbors and have a whole lot of fun in the process.



## Going on Vacation? Don't Forget about Your Pet!

If you are planning on going out of town this summer, don't neglect to make arrangements for your pet—whether you have a dog or a cat, birds or fish. They are part of your family and need to be looked after in your absence. But the big question is: where should I take my pet while I am out of town? Well, it all depends on what you are looking for. Here are some options:

### TAKE YOUR PET WITH YOU!

This could be an option especially for dog owners. Bringing a dog with you on vacation can enrich a trip in so many ways. You'll talk to dog-loving strangers who otherwise would have passed right by you; you'll travel to dog-friendly parks and other places that wouldn't ordinarily be on your itinerary; and most significantly, you'll have your best friend at your side!

Naturally, not every vacation destination is suitable for pets. Also, not every dog is calm and well behaved enough to travel. But if yours is, the Web contains many resources where dog-lovers can connect with people and places that will facilitate their travel. Some travel sites for dog lovers include [www.dogfriendly.com](http://www.dogfriendly.com), for dog-friendly beaches, cities, parks, ski resorts, hotels, and more, [www.petfriendlytravel.com](http://www.petfriendlytravel.com) to locate lodging, and <http://www.puppytravel.com>, which is a travel agent for pets that arranges transport and relocation trips.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# Lakes on Eldridge

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AMI .....	713-932-1122
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Waterfowl, Betty Burkett.....	713-302-9929
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(non-emergency) .....	281-550-6663
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Texas DPS.....	713-681-1761
Waste Management .....	713-695-4055
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SouthWest Water Company .....	713-405-1750
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Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
CenterPoint (gas) .....	713-659-2111
Center Point (street light).....	713-207-2222
(give pole # of street which is out)	
Comcast.....	713-341-1000
Houston Chronicle .....	713-220-7211
Metro Transit Info.....	713-635-4000
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Truitt Middle School.....	281-856-1100
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## LOE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To contact a member of the Board of Directors, call Richard Lowstetter with AMI at 713-932-1122. Leave the number where you can be reached. Your message will then be forwarded onto one of the following board members:

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Heather Von Sternberg.....	Secretary
Cory Hammond .....	Treasurer
David King .....	At large

Visit the Association Website: [www.lakesoneldridge.net](http://www.lakesoneldridge.net)

**Going on Vacation?....** (Continued from Cover Page)

### HIRING A PETSITTER

For many pet owners hiring a pet sitter to come to your home and feed and walk your dog or look after your cat is the best solution. The sitter can also turn on and off lights and pick up your newspaper and mail so your house looks lived in. Your dog gets to stay and continue to protect his home, plus he is not exposed to other dogs and their possible diseases and parasites. If you can't afford a pet sitter's rates, you may see if you can "hire" a neighbor or family member to take care of your dog for you. Don't forget to check out the list of teenage job seekers featured in every Lakes on Eldridge Newsletter.

### BOARDING YOUR PET

Different boarding facilities offer different options for keeping your pet. Some offer grooming, if you would like your animal to come home beautifully groomed, clean and maybe even with trimmed nails. Some places board only dogs and cats where some add birds, ferrets, rabbits and reptiles. Most places require certain shots, but almost all require the bordetella vaccine so it is best to make sure your pets have all required shots. Calling in ahead to the location and asking what is required can help smooth the check-in process. In addition, should any additional information be needed from your vet they can easily fax it to the boarding facility.

Do you have a pampered pet? Well some places offer a different variety of options from doggie suites with televisions in their rooms to a microwave meal. So whatever option you choose, please choose what makes you and your pet happy. Good luck and I hope you all enjoy that vacation out of town worry free! For more information on our neighborhood or to join the pet safety committee go to: [www.lakesoneldridge.net](http://www.lakesoneldridge.net) or contact Anke Arnold at [ankearnold@att.net](mailto:ankearnold@att.net)

*Don't want to wait for the mail?*

**View the current issue of the Lakes on Eldridge Community Newsletter on the 1st day of each month at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)**



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# Lakes on Eldridge

## July Yard Of The Month

**CALLOWAY / CORNELIUS GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM**



**WINNER: Dean & Elena Hofmann, 5518 Windham Springs**

Well, the hot weather and lack of rain has not seemed to affect the quality of hard work going into maintaining everyone's lovely gardens.

It never ceases to amaze us how our homeowners take pride in living here in LOE. Your devotion to gardening does not go unnoticed!

**HONORABLE MENTIONS: Gloria & George Ballard, 12502 Evening Shore Ct. & Gustavo & Alma Reyes, 5306 Green Cove Bend**

***Congratulations to you all for a job well done! Winners, please allow 8 weeks for receiving your gift certificate from Cornelius.***



**WINNER: Deb & Shane Rhodes, 5522 Cardinal Bay**



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# Lakes on Eldridge

## Thank You for another Great Lakes on Eldridge Swim Team Season

Another great season just ended, and congratulations are due first and foremost to all the wonderful children who did their very best to excel, and then to their dedicated parents and coaches. Winning the Divisionals last year was wonderful, but it also made the competition this year that much tougher, as the team moved up a level in the swim league. But our swimmers still did great against the bigger teams they faced! Many thanks go to all the volunteers who made it all possible and did it with great enthusiasm, and to all the residents of LOE, who graciously hosted our practices and meets!

Look here next month to find out how the team performed in the Divisionals and the Trinity Summer Classic Invitational. But if you cannot wait to find out, the latest information on the team and all its offerings is as always on our website [www.loedolphins.org](http://www.loedolphins.org).



## Lakes on Eldridge Bible Study

The Lakes on Eldridge Bible Study will resume meeting every Tuesday morning at the Beach Club on September 11, 2012. The New study by Lenya Heitzig and Penny Rose, *Live Abundantly*, a Fresh Life Series by David C. Cook, begins our Fall meetings.

As we dig into the book of Ephesians we shall unearth the greatest treasure of life—a gift “exceedingly abundantly above” whatever you could possibly ask for. This twelve-week study for women takes only 20 minutes a day and with each lesson, we hope to develop a deeper intimacy with God and a deeper understanding of Bible truths.

If you would like to join us or would like additional information, please contact Stephanie at [mrstjl10179@gmail.com](mailto:mrstjl10179@gmail.com). We meet every Tuesday from 9:15 AM until 11:30 AM for fellowship, praise, study, and prayer. On the first Tuesday of each month we go out for lunch after our meeting. The study guides cost \$13.00 and will be available for purchase at the first meeting, or you can contact Stephanie and she will get one for you before the meetings begin. We hope you will want to come and grow in your faith and share fellowship with a great bunch of Christian ladies.

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## Timely Tips for July Gardeners

FROM CALLOWAY'S & CORNELIUS

Every Texan knows water is an essential element for maintaining a beautiful lawn and landscape and after last year's drought we really value this precious natural resource. It is each person's responsibility to conserve water yet keep our gardens thriving through the heat.

If you own a sprinkler system, each zone should be programmed differently depending on the needs of that area. You should keep your sprinkler system in the manual mode so it does not run when it is not needed. Established lawns should be watered once every five to seven days, applying about one inch of water each time. This soaking encourages deeper rooting which leads to stronger, healthier plants. Landscape irrigation can account for more than 50% of all water used in Texas during

the summer. Unfortunately, half of that water is lost to run-off or over-watering. So, avoid this loss by monitoring how long you water each area and that all your equipment is functioning correctly.

Shrubs and flowerbeds may require more watering depending on the age of the plant material. A good test is to dig down 4 to 6 inches and feel the soil. If the soil is dry, a good deep watering is in order. Plants in full sun will require more moisture as well as those growing in containers. Please remember, any newly planted tree or shrub requires additional hand watering for that first year. The best time of day to water is early morning before the temperatures begin to rise. Also, early mornings tend to be a time of lower winds and thus reduced evaporation.

Mulching is an excellent way to retain moisture. It will also insulate the soil surface from the direct rays of the sun and prevent weeds from germinating. Mulched soils can be as much as 10 to 15 degrees cooler than unmulched soils. Apply a two to three inch layer of mulch to all beds, plantings and containers.

We can all enjoy a colorful and green landscape during the Summer! For more information, stop by any of our Calloway's or Cornelius stores or visit our website, [www.calloways.com](http://www.calloways.com) for locations.



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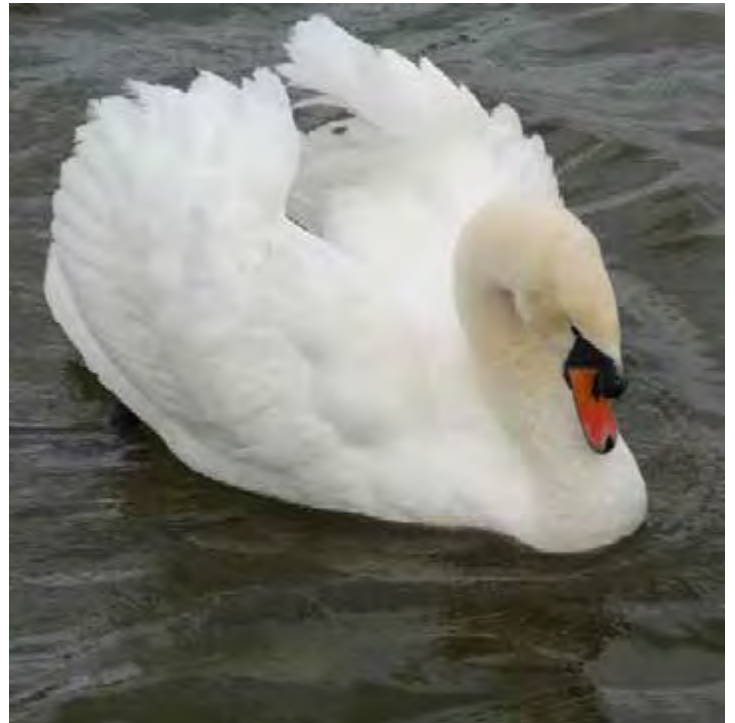
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## Swans Can Be Dangerous!

This time of the year, Mother Nature provides our LOE swans with some common sense. It is for them mating, nesting, then egg-laying season, and they feel the need to protect their territory against predators including humans, dogs, and other waterfowl. Most of the swans in our neighborhood are not old enough to mate but some will go through the motions of even building a nest. The pairs of swans that are old enough to produce young (cygnets) are normally gentle and can be fed while posing no threat. However, the males (cobs) will become aggressive and territorial in trying to protect their mate and their nest. This is usually temporary until mating season is over. If you are walking past a lake and a swan swims to your side and follows you, BEWARE! If you see a swan with his neck back and feathers up such as the one in the picture, please do not attempt to feed him but stay away. In fact, walk to the other side of the street as he is in ATTACK position! Please warn your nannies and sitters not to stroll babies around the swans. We must try to remember that the swans are protecting their territory and readying it for their young. To antagonize, tease, throw objects at, or injure the swans is a felony and we need to be as cautious of them as they are to us. Thank you for your cooperation!





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# Lakes on Eldridge

## Cypress-Tomball Democrats JULY MEETING

The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold their next monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 18th, at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429. A meet and greet will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the general meeting at 7:00 p.m.

July's guest speaker will be Judson W. Robinson, III, President and CEO of the Houston Area Urban League. The Houston Area Urban League is a United Way agency affiliated with the National Urban League.



All are welcome to join this growing club. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month. For more information, contact Olga Moya at [cytomdems@yahoo.com](mailto:cytomdems@yahoo.com).

## CY-WOODS KEY CLUB

Being part of Key Club, one of the tremendous clubs in Cy-Woods High School, is very riveting for many reasons. First off, the most exciting news this year for Cy-Woods is that we are THE Number One Key Club in both states of Texas and Oklahoma from over 300 Key Clubs!



*Cy-Woods Key Club Triathlon*

Over the year, Cy-Woods Key Club members were active and working hard by gaining an abundance of volunteer hours. Key Club is an organization that is immense all over the world (30 different countries) for people to help the community, gain leadership, and build your character to become less self-centered. Our Key Club is sponsored by the Cy-Fair Kiwanis, an organization where people of all ages help children everywhere around the world. Through Key Club, members help at various events such as school carnivals, orientations, sport games, church events, food banks and any event that requires help. Even though school has ended, Key Club remains active. If you require help with anything, please contact [cywoodskeyclub@gmail.com](mailto:cywoodskeyclub@gmail.com).

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# Lakes on Eldridge

## Cypress Christian School News

Cypress Christian School will host academic, baseball, and volleyball camps in July and August to help children hone their skills, prepare for next year, and just have FUN! For more information, please go to the school website at [CypressChristian.org](http://CypressChristian.org) or call 281-469-8829.

## BOOK CLUB

Our July selection takes us to Silicon Valley, while in August we'll visit Germany in the 1930s. If you would like to join our literary journey, contact Celeste Fritz at [celeste.fritz@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.fritz@gmail.com) to find the location of each meeting. Book selections are also subject to change, depending on the feedback from the group.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **July 23 - Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson.** Based on more than forty interviews with Jobs conducted over two years—as well as interviews with more than a hundred family members, friends, adversaries, competitors, and colleagues—Walter Isaacson has written a riveting story of the roller-coaster life and searingly intense personality of a creative entrepreneur whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing.
- **August 27 - In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin by Erik Larson.** The time is 1933, the place, Berlin, when William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany in a year that proved to be a turning point in history. In the Garden of Beasts lends a stunning eyewitness perspective on events as they unfold in real time, revealing an era of surprising nuance and complexity. The result is a dazzling and addictively readable work that speaks volumes about why the world did not recognize the grave threat posed by Hitler until Berlin and Europe were awash in blood and terror.

## Yoga Practice

*After a long day, come stretch & unwind with some gentle yoga.*

No experience or flexibility needed except for a willing heart and open mind, and it is open to all residents free of charge. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat (borrowing mats are available at the class). **Upcoming meetings in July will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the Lakes on Eldridge Club House.** Contact Jennifer Adams, [adamsjjenn@gmail.com](mailto:adamsjjenn@gmail.com) and 832-628-5425 for more information.

## Bunco Junkies

Members of Bunco Junkies meet & play at the LOE Beach Club House on the 1st Thursday of each month from 12 noon until 2 pm. We must have 12 players each month to be able to play. Please speak to your friends & neighbors and ask them to join us in this easy and fun game. Players do not have to be residents of Lakes on Eldridge to play.

For more information contact Catherine Spellings at [CTSpellings@aol.com](mailto:CTSpellings@aol.com), or call 713-628-7083 or 713-896-1652.



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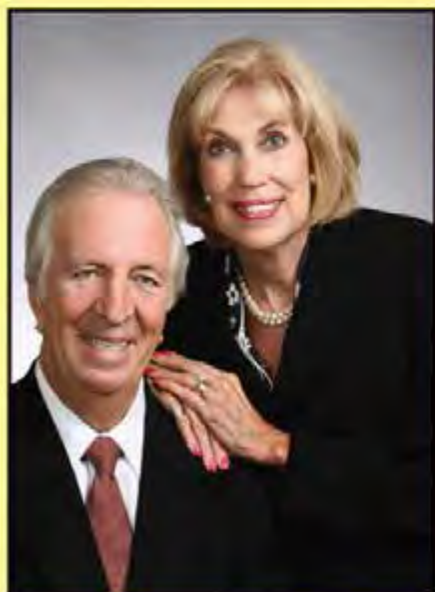


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## Stitch & Chat

Members of Stitch and Chat meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at the LOE Beach Club House. We knit, crochet, do needle point, embroidery, and counted cross stitch, plus mend items and sew on buttons that we have put off much too long. We make quilts for family members, shawls for cancer patients, and caps for newborn babies. We would love to have you join us for coffee and conversation. We would be happy to help you get started on any project that you have always wanted to do.

You do not have to be a resident of Lakes on Eldridge to join us. For more information contact: Catherine Spellings at CTSpellings@aol.com, or call 713-628-7083 or 713-896-1652.



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## Financial Focus - Student Loans Crushing College Grads

*Submitted by Rich Keith*

Today's college grads are facing the "real world" with an extra scoop of debt. Two-thirds of students graduating from college or graduate school have student loans – about \$25,000 on average. That's a 25% increase over the past 10 years. In fact, today's twentysomething holds an average debt of \$45,000, including everything from student loans to mortgages and credit cards. Unfortunately, unemployment for those aged 18-29 is 12.4%, well above the national rate of 8.2%.

Don't feel as if you have to be the savior. Six in 10 boomers report giving financial help (outside of college tuition) to a child or grandchild in the past five years. Of those, \$59,000 was the average amount of aid. If this sounds like you, ask yourself: Do I really have the resources? Am I saving enough for retirement? Try to share more financial wisdom and less cash with your adult offspring. The more you save for your own future means less possibility that you'll need their help later on.



Without going into too much detail, share the family financial picture with your children once they hit the mid-teen years. They need to know the family income is X and it takes Y amount to cover the mortgage and bills. Once they see X minus Y in action they will be surprised at how much it actually costs to run a household.

This may have a side benefit of limiting how much and how often your children ask you for money and gifts.

Children who have a basic understanding of money, especially the corrosive effects of debt, have a better chance of becoming financially independent later in life. They will be more resistant to the credit card offers sure to come to them in their freshman year at college. And they will more ready to partner with their parents as the family manages their college finances with them.



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## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A PET FOOD

Pet nutrition and pet food selection has improved significantly over the last few years, however, there is still a lot of confusion regarding what to feed our four-legged friends.

Following the horrific melamine pet food recalls of 2007, much research has been dedicated to learning more about pet nutrition and how pet food is manufactured and distributed to consumers. This has spawned a greater selection of high-quality, pet super-foods. However, it has also prompted some companies who still make cheap, low-quality pet food to simply change their packaging to dupe consumers into believing that they're buying food filled with wholesome fresh meat, fruits, and vegetables.

Don't be fooled! A pretty bag with pictures of cascading corn and carrots does not a quality pet food make. Read the ingredient label to see what's really in the bag and in your pet's food bowl.

Here are some things to look for in the ingredient label and to consider when choosing a food for your furry family members.

### PROTEIN

A named protein and/or protein meal should be first on the ingredient list. For example, if you're buying a chicken formula pet food, look for, "chicken," or, "chicken meal," as the first ingredient, not chicken by-product. Remember: meal is a good thing, by-product is a bad thing. Also, if a protein source is not named - beware. For example, if the ingredient label reads, "meat meal," you have no way of knowing what the protein source is and should be wary. It could be anything from aardvark to zebra. The best pet foods have two or three protein sources in the first five ingredients listed.

Confused about the difference between chicken and chicken meal? Chicken, or any other protein source listed in the ingredient label, means that fresh meat was added to the mix before cooking. This is great! But just like our bodies, animals are about 70% water. So, when the mixture is cooked, the fresh meat in it loses volume, thereby decreasing

the amount of protein in the final product. Chicken meal, on the other hand, is chicken meat, bone and some connective tissue that has been cooked, dried and added to the mix before cooking, which ultimately increases the protein level of the food.

### VEGGIES, FRUITS & WHOLEGRAINS

Like humans, pets benefit from the vitamins and enzymes in fresh vegetables and fruits. Look for quality produce and complex carbohydrates like carrots, spinach, pumpkin, etc. as well as whole grain rice, oats, and/or barley. These healthy foods have lower glycemic index ranges, which will keep your pet more satisfied and will help to avoid sudden drops in energy levels. Avoid highly processed grains such as corn, wheat and rice. As with humans, these are empty fillers and fast burning carbohydrates.

### US SOURCED

Do a little extra digging to find where the ingredients of a food you're considering are sourced. Often, you can find this information on the manufacturer's website. If not, call them and ask. Look for foods made with ingredients from the US. This will help you take advantage of the strict, governmental regulations that watch pet food manufacturers and that are there to protect you and your pets from contamination. Furthermore, buying products made in the US is just plain good sense for the local economy and environment.

### WHAT TO AVOID

By-products and by-product meals should be avoided for a number of reasons. First, you have no way of knowing exactly what the ingredient is, but you can be sure that it is a low-value portion of the animal. In addition to the ingredient itself being dubious, low-value products are not handled with the same care as higher-value products, so they could become rancid or exposed to harmful bacteria. Also

avoid sweeteners, which are added to poor quality foods to enhance palatability. Other ingredients to avoid are artificial preservatives such as BHA, BHT, and ethoxyquin, and artificial colors.

Once you've narrowed your choices down to a few based on quality ingredients, then consider your pet's specific health needs. Is your pet overweight, underweight, young, adult, or senior? Does he/she have allergies or itchy skin? There are high-quality foods that are formulated to address all of these issues and more.

After you've finally chosen a healthy pet food and are ready to purchase, be sure to check the, "Best By," date. In quality, natural foods, this will be about 12 months from the manufacture date. When dishing out the new grub to your pet, start by mixing it with a bit of his last diet to help his tummy transition. Do this for about a week, adding a little more of the new food everyday. By day seven, your pet should be ready for full servings and a fuller life.



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