Welcome

This is Star Milling Company’s first newsletter. We manufacture nutritious, high-quality animal feed that is sold through feed stores in the western United States. Our quarterly newsletter will have useful information for people that love their pets.

Q&A: Cats & Dogs

Dogs and cats are fascinating animals. There’s so much fun stuff to learn about them! Here are two frequently asked questions pulled from the dogs and cats section of our website.

Q: What if my dog eats cat food or vice-versa?
A: Dogs and cats have different nutritional requirements. It is normally safe for dogs to consume cat foods, but it is not recommended for optimum nutrition.

Cats are true carnivores, so they require more protein than what is found in dog food. It is okay if cats eat dog food occasionally, but they may become malnourished if dog food is their main source of nutrition.

Q: Are purebred dogs better than mixed breed dogs?
A: The benefit of a purebred dog is that you know how he will look as an adult. This helps you to choose a dog that fits your lifestyle. However, mixed breed dogs have less genetic disorders.

Raising Chicks is Easy!

Raising chicks in the backyard has become very popular over the past few years. You get fresh eggs every week, plus they have great personalities! Watching these little guys scurry around the yard and play with each other is very entertaining.

Like with any other pet, you need to learn how to care for them to ensure the happiness of you and your birds. For example, did you know that chickens are more than 70% water? Large chickens can drink 1 to 2 cups a day. So it is important to leave plenty of water out for your birds. They will reward you with their great energy and delicious eggs!

Hens under 1 year old are called “pullets”. Pullets usually start laying eggs at 6 months old. Experts say a chicken is in its prime from 1 to 2 years old, and 4-5 year old chickens are considered old. But you will still receive a lot of eggs from a 5 year old hen.

Fun fact: There are more chickens living on earth than people! Want more tips of raising chickens? Check out our printable Poultry Care Guidelines. We also offer some of the best poultry feed available. Click here to take a look.

Which is Better: Extruded or Pelleted Feed?

Let’s start of by explaining the difference between extruded and pelleted feed. Extrusion is a process in which feed is ground, quickly cooked at a high temperature, and processed under high pressure. The feed is then pushed through a die, which makes the feed a unique and uniform shape. Extrusion often improves the feed’s digestibility.

Pelleted feeds are not cooked, and are prepared at a much lower temperature and pressure. Both pelleting and extrusion can improve the digestibility of raw feed ingredients, specifically grains such as corn, oats and barley. The more grains there are in a formula, the more likely extrusion will improve the feed’s digestibility.

There are examples of each feed type below. The extruded feed has a unique triangle shape, while the pelleted feed is, well, pellet shaped.
Star Milling will have booths at these shows. Come say “hi”!

**May 4-5** - LA Equestrian Center, Burbank, CA  
**May 11** - Lomita Feed, Lomita, CA  
**May 18** - Escondido Feed, Escondido, CA  
**May 25-26** - Greater Louisville Koi Show, Louisville, KY  
**June 1** - Linda’s Feed, Norco, CA  
**Multiple Dates** - Del Mar Fair, Del Mar, CA

So which is better? It depends. There is not a “best” processing method—it is based on the specific feed. The only way to ensure proper nutrition for your pets is to focus on the formula. Contact Us today and we’ll help you decide which feed is right for your pet.