

- 1)** Corn provides energy AND nutritional value to pets.
- 2)** Dry foods, like extruded kibbles, generally contain between 30-60% starch ingredients. Corn is a great source of starch which helps promote kibble binding and expansion when it is cooked in the presence of water and heat (a process known as starch gelatinization).
- 3)** Including >60% corn in pet food recipes promotes quality stools and high apparent total tract digestibility in dogs, to levels comparable to sorghum and rice.
- 4)** Corn is a great choice for extruded kibbles due to its palatability and structure forming physical properties. It toasts well and forms browning reaction products with rich flavor notes creating aesthetically pleasing kibbles with a desirable texture. In fact, corn is actually preferred over other grains in palatability tests.
- 5)** A moderate intake of starch ingredients like corn adds energy to the diet, besides providing nutrients like fiber, protein and lipids (fatty acids and antioxidants). When whole corn or corn starch are included in a pet food and properly cooked, the starch becomes almost entirely digestible by the end of the small intestine. Any remaining undigested starch passes to the colon where most is fermented. The disappearance of starch in corn is nearly 100% by the point at which it is excreted in feces.
- 6)** Corn is also known to be high in carotenoid antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin, which if concentrated could provide functional antioxidants that enhance the immune system of cats and dogs.
- 7)** Dogs fed a corn-rich diet also produced more short-chain fatty acids in the colon. Short chain fatty acids are supportive to the immune function and homeostasis of the intestine.
- 8)** Corn is an example of a starch ingredient that can be used in dry pet foods due to its physical properties. Other nutrients like fiber and proteins may be more concentrated in corn by-products derived from corn processing, and these confer additional health benefits to the pet diet.
- 9)** Corn is sustainable! Since 1980, yields have increased 64%, energy usage has decreased 44%, soil loss has decreased 68% and GHG emissions have decreased 36% per bushel of corn.
- 10)** Corn is an abundant, available and affordable ingredient.

