

Can dogs eat grains? Whose message is the most reliable?



Read the messages below. Evaluate the expertise and intentions of each author, as well as the evidence presented by them.

The more stars you give for expertise, the more knowledge you think the author has of what they are writing about.

The more stars you give for intentions, the more you believe the author is only striving for good with their message and is not pursuing their own interest.

The more stars you give for evidence, the better you think the evidence is the author uses to support their claim.

Use the stars you give to help you evaluate whose message is the most reliable.

Message 1



Inka Virtainen
Journalist

Editing the Kids Ask column is a highlight of my work. I get to look for answers to questions kids have on their minds!

Eelis, 10, asks if dogs should be eating the same food as wolves. I inquired about this from Professor Robert Wayne who has studied the genetics of dogs and wolves. He said that the wolf's diet consists mostly of meat. Dogs, on the other hand, have adapted to a more diverse diet than wolves. According to the professor, healthy dogs can, therefore, also eat grains and vegetables.

Expertise: ☆☆☆☆☆

Intentions: ☆☆☆☆☆

What does the author claim?

How does she support her claim (= evidence)?

- a) With an expert's opinion
- b) Through her own experience
- c) With research results

Evidence: ☆☆☆☆☆

Message 2



Mikko Kinnunen
Veterinarian

I have worked as a municipal veterinarian for 12 years.

Do you suspect that your dog is allergic to grain? That's right! Just like people, dogs can get allergic reactions from grains. According to research, especially Irish setters can be sensitive to grain. However, research also shows that allergic reactions in dogs are quite rare. If your dog is healthy, and doesn't show signs of diarrhea or rash, you can also feed them grain without worry.

Expertise: ☆☆☆☆☆

Intentions: ☆☆☆☆☆

What does the author claim?

How does he support his claim (= evidence)?

- a) With an expert's opinion
- b) Through his own observation
- c) With research results

Evidence: ☆☆☆☆☆

Message 3



Taisto Korppila
Day care worker

I take care of children at work and my furry friend on my free time!

Food containing grain is not suitable for dogs. I have completely removed wheat, corn and rice from my dog's diet. A diet that only contains meat has had a visibly positive effect on my dog. I hope that all other dog owners would favor a grain-free diet. In my opinion, the sale of foods containing grain to dogs should be completely banned!

Expertise: ☆☆☆☆☆

Intentions: ☆☆☆☆☆

What does the author claim?

How does he support his claim (= evidence)?

- a) With an expert's opinion
- b) Through his own observation
- c) With research results

Evidence: ☆☆☆☆☆

In my opinion, the most reliable message is: _____

Why do you think so?



Do cats need vitamin D supplements? Whose message is the most reliable?

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Use the stars you give to help you evaluate whose message is the most reliable.

Message 1



Ari Kiiramo
Fashion designer

Passionate about fashion and cats!

Cats need vitamin D supplements! My cat Kuura is already quite old. Six months ago, I noticed that her fur had lost its sheen. Even though Kuura gets vitamin D from the fish she eats, she also needs other sources of vitamin D. When I started to give vitamin D supplements to my cat, her fur got its sheen back! Her nails are also stronger!

Expertise: ★★★★★

Intentions: ★★★★★

What does the author claim?

How does he support his claim (= evidence)?

- a) With an expert's opinion
- b) Through his own observation
- c) With research results

Evidence: ★★★★★

Message 2



Aino Saartti
Marketing director

We sell products that improve the quality of life for you and your pet!

Are you sure your cat gets enough vitamin D? Unlike us, a cat's body cannot produce vitamin D from sunlight. Therefore, cats have to get their vitamin D from supplements. Numerous customers have told us how VitaCat D vitamin drops have improved their furry friends' wellbeing.

Expertise: ★★★★★

Intentions: ★★★★★

What does the author claim?

How does she support her claim (= evidence)?

- a) With an expert's opinion
- b) Through her own observation
- c) With research results

Evidence: ★★★★★

Message 3



Minna Lehisari
Doctor of veterinary medicine

With my research, I want to improve the wellbeing of pets.

Attention cat owners!

You shouldn't give vitamin D supplements to your cats if they don't need it. In an article in the Finnish Veterinary Journal, researchers say that excessive vitamin D intake can be toxic to cats. Vitamin D supplements should only be used if the right dosage can be determined. So, you would need to know how much vitamin D your cat gets from its diet.

Expertise: ★★★★★

Intentions: ★★★★★

What does the author claim?

How does she support her claim (= evidence)?

- a) With an expert's opinion
- b) Through her own observation
- c) With research results

Evidence: ★★★★★

In my opinion, the most reliable message is: _____

Why do you think so?