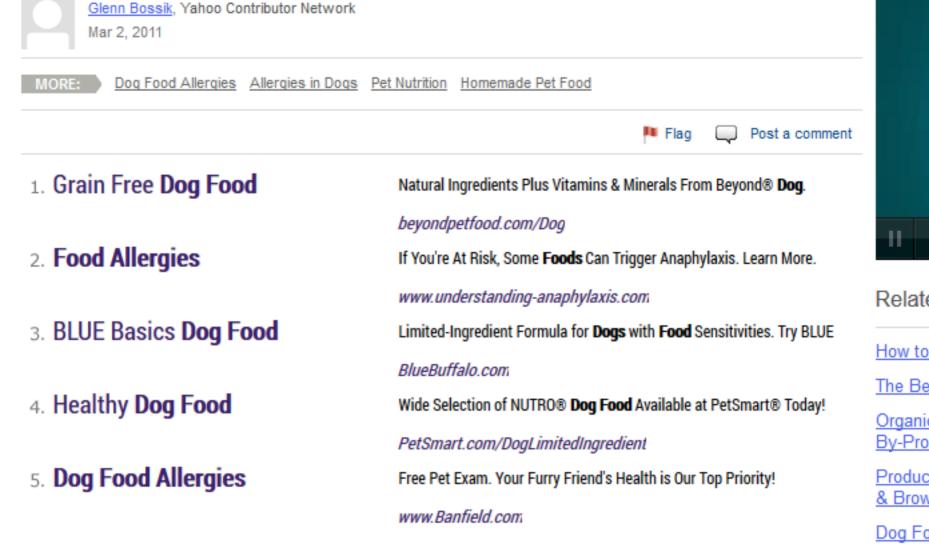
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California resident Joe Lascola was ecstatic. He said his Italian Greyhound, Guido, had recently

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when it was only one year old. Guido had major health problems. But Lascola never gave up on his pet. He started making home-cooked meals for Guido. "Someone told me, 'You ought to think about cooking for your dog,'" he said. "So I did."

celebrated its eleventh birthday. According to Lascola, a veterinarian told him to put the dog to sleep

Despite the vet's grim prognosis, Guido survived. And now Joe Lascola runs California Ko Kitchen, a company that makes homemade food for dogs.

Lascola learned about pet nutrition the hard way. He said Guido had a stomach ulcer caused by

inflammatory bowel disease. He attributed Guido's stomach problems to the meat proteins in

commercial pet food. "Most of the foods were made with chicken or beef or lamb," he said. "He was rejecting those proteins." Lascola started cooking meals for Guido while still continuing to give the Greyhound some

one of those brands that was on the recall," Lascola said, describing a threat to Guido's health. "He ended up in the hospital." After that, he added, he didn't give Guido anymore commercial dog food. The FDA later concluded that an ingredient in dog and cat food had been contaminated with

commercial dog food. Then, in 2007, the <u>FDA</u> announced that pet food was being recalled. "He was on

Now, Lascola partners with animal nutritionist Susan Lauten, PhD, to help provide clients with specialized meals for dogs. "After my dog was so sick, the vet referred me to her," said Lascola. "So,

she saved my dog's life." Dr. Lauten noted that she helped formulate several diets for Guido over the years. "He's very sensitive to foods," she said. "And he stays on immunosuppressants all the time to keep his immune system

Veterinarians refer pet owners to Dr. Lauten, and she formulates recipes for the owners. She says she looks at the medical records and test results and creates an appropriate diet for the pets.

California K9 Kitchen. Lascola offers home delivery of pet meals. Dr. Lauten has her own company - Pet Nutrition Consulting. Among her services is diet analysis. Her

She often works with Joe Lascola, who cooks pet meals from her recipes through his company,

meet standards from AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials) and NRC (National Research Council). The study, <u>Nutrition Through the Life Cycle</u>, details AAFCO's nutritional profiles for dogs and cats. The profiles define the amount of protein, fat, vitamins, and minerals that these animals need. NRC

Web site says this form of analysis can be done to make sure home-cooked and commercial pet foods

According to Dr. Lauten, proteins are a common cause of food allergies in dogs. Authors Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz and Jordan Herod Nuccio say in their book, The Everything Natural Health for <u>Dogs Book</u>, that food allergies can give dogs gastrointestinal problems, ear infections, and skin irritations. When asked about the prevalence of allergies in dogs, Lauten said: "It seems more and more animals are having food allergy and/or immune disease."

have a way to meet the specific dietary needs of allergy-prone dogs. Sources:

owners. With her services and those of Joe Lascola's California K9 Kitchen, California residents now

Lauten's observation shows that homemade pet food may become increasingly important to pet

Joe Lascola, Owner, California Ko Kitchen

FDA, "Recall of Pet Foods Manufactured by Menu Foods, Inc," U.S. Food and Drug Administration

melamine, an industrial chemical.

from attacking his body."

has created similar guidelines.

Susan Lauten, PhD, Pet Nutrition Consulting

David A. Dzanis, "Nutrition Through the Life Cycle," The Journal of Nutrition

Google Books

1. Grain Free Dog Food Natural Ingredients Plus Vitamins & Minerals From Beyond® Dog.

Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz and Jordan Herod Nuccio, "The Everything Natural Health for Dogs Book,"

2. Food Allergies If You're At Risk, Some Foods Can Trigger Anaphylaxis. Learn More.

3. BLUE Basics Dog Food Limited-Ingredient Formula for **Dogs** with **Food** Sensitivities. Try BLUE

Wide Selection of NUTRO® **Dog Food** Available at PetSmart® Today!

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4. Healthy **Dog Food**

Dog Food Allergies

1/4 tsp Garlic Powder

Glenn Bossik works as a Web content writer and has served the Internet marketing industry for over 14 years. View profile





