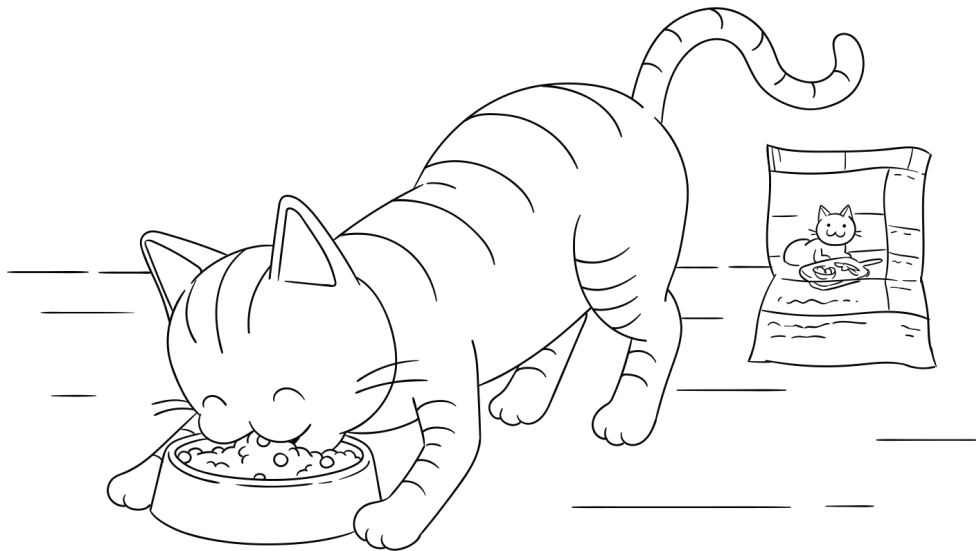




## **Whitepaper: Nutritional Excellence and Digestibility of Dr. Elsey's Chicken Kibble – A Comprehensive Review for Veterinary Professionals**



## Executive Summary

Dr. Elsey's Chicken Kibble is a high-protein, low-phosphorus feline diet designed to meet the nutritional needs of cats across life stages. Combining findings from the **digestibility study** and **laboratory analysis**, this whitepaper highlights the product's superior protein digestibility, nutrient balance, and safety. These features make it an exceptional choice for maintaining feline health, particularly for active, senior, and early-stage CKD cats. The insights from these studies underscore the kibble's unique ability to support muscle preservation, energy demands, and kidney health while ensuring gastrointestinal compatibility.

## Key Findings

### Digestibility Study:

- **Protein Digestibility:**  $91.9\% \pm 0.86$  – High-quality animal protein provides essential amino acids with minimal waste production.
- **Fat Digestibility:**  $90.0\% \pm 1.63$  – Supports concentrated energy for active and senior cats.
- **Dry Matter Digestibility:**  $87.8\% \pm 1.08$  – Reflects excellent overall nutrient absorption.
- **Caloric Digestibility:**  $90.9\% \pm 1.02$  – Demonstrates efficient utilization of dietary energy.
- **Fecal Consistency:** Average score of 2.33 (moist, some form) indicates excellent gastrointestinal compatibility.

### Lab Analysis:

- **Protein Content:** 60.7% – Ideal for lean muscle maintenance and recovery.
- **Phosphorus Level:** 0.88% – Moderately low, kidney-friendly compared to standard high-protein diets (1.2–1.5%).
- **Calcium-to-Phosphorus Ratio:** 0.94:1 – Ensures balanced bone health without excessive mineral load.
- **Fat Content:** 20.3% – High energy density supports cats with increased metabolic demands.
- **Trace Minerals:** Adequate zinc, copper, and iron levels enhance coat, skin, and immune health.
- **Safety Standards:** Minimal microbial counts (e.g., yeast and mold <10 cfu/g) ensure product stability and safety.

## Key Benefits for Cats

### 1. Muscle Maintenance and Recovery

- The **60.7% crude protein** content is paired with **91.9% digestibility**, ensuring optimal amino acid availability for muscle maintenance, especially in seniors prone to sarcopenia.

### 2. Kidney-Friendly Formulation

- The **0.88% phosphorus level** is significantly lower than many high-protein diets, reducing strain on renal function in healthy and early-stage CKD cats.
- The calcium-to-phosphorus ratio of **0.94:1** supports metabolic and bone health without increasing the risk of calcium oxalate stone formation.

### 3. Energy and Metabolic Support

- High energy density (**4.58 kcal/g**) from digestible fat and protein supports active, senior, or recovering cats, reducing risks of weight loss or malnutrition.

#### 4. Digestive Health

- The diet's low fiber content (**1.46%**) and balanced composition prevent gastrointestinal distress, as evidenced by normal fecal consistency scores during trials.
- Prebiotics – Added fructooligosaccharides help maintain healthy intestinal bacteria

#### 5. Safety and Quality Assurance

- Low microbial counts (e.g., aerobic plate count: 140 cfu/g) confirm exceptional manufacturing quality and food safety standards.

#### Clinical Applications

##### For Healthy Cats:

- **Active Adults:** The high protein and energy density support physical activity and metabolic needs.
- **Seniors:** Prevents muscle wasting and supports weight maintenance with superior protein and fat digestibility.

##### For Early-Stage CKD Cats:

- The moderately low phosphorus level makes the kibble a viable option for early-stage CKD, particularly for cats at risk of muscle loss.
- High digestibility reduces nitrogenous waste production, lowering the kidney's filtration burden. (See table for nitrogenous waste comparison)

##### For Cats with Gastrointestinal Sensitivities:

- Low fiber and ash levels minimize gastrointestinal upset, making it suitable for sensitive stomachs.

#### Comparison to Other Diets

| Feature               | Dr. Elsey's Chicken Kibble | Standard High-Protein Diets | Therapeutic CKD Diets |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Protein Digestibility | 91.9%                      | ~80–85%                     | ~88–90%               |
| Phosphorus Content    | 0.88%                      | 1.2–1.5%                    | 0.3–0.6%              |
| Energy Density (ME)   | 4.58 kcal/g                | 3.5–4.0 kcal/g              | 3.5–4.2 kcal/g        |
| Target Use            | Healthy and early CKD cats | General maintenance         | CKD management        |
| Nitrogenous Waste     | 8.1%                       | ~15%–20%                    | ~10%–12%              |

#### Conclusion

Dr. Elsey's Chicken Kibble stands out for its exceptional protein quality, digestibility, and moderately low phosphorus content. The combination of insights from the digestibility study and lab results highlights its suitability for:

- Active and senior cats requiring muscle maintenance.
- Early-stage CKD cats needing a kidney-friendly, high-protein diet.
- Cats with gastrointestinal sensitivities due to its balanced, low-fiber composition.

Veterinary professionals can confidently recommend this diet to support feline health while exploring targeted options for advanced CKD and hydration support. For more details or to request product samples, visit [drelseys.com](https://drelseys.com) or contact [vet@drelseys.com](mailto:vet@drelseys.com).