

## AN ECONOMICAL, BALANCED DIET FOR XENOPUS

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Over the past two years, we have gradually switched our juvenile and adult axolotls' diet from pureed beef liver to a commercial salmon pellet (see Susan Duhon's article in this issue of the Axolotl Newsletter). It is undoubtedly a more suitable diet for aquatic amphibians than is beef liver, which has been implicated as a possible cause of various diseases in amphibia, including those resulting from vitamin A toxicity.

We maintain a small colony of Xenopus spp. which we had previously been feeding chunks of beef heart. We experimented with the salmon pellets as food for Xenopus, and found that, after refusing the new food for 1-3 days, all our frogs began to accept the salmon pellets. As of this writing, they have been fed pellets exclusively for approximately 7 months with no signs of ill effects.

The new diet has cut time spent feeding by half, and the water stays cleaner. The pellets, called "Soft-Moist Salmon Diet" by Rangen, Inc., can be ordered in 50lb boxes at approximately \$0.60/lb + shipping.

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### ANALYSIS OF SOFT-MOIST SALMON DIET

Crude protein, not less than.....	45.0%
Crude fat, not less than.....	19.0%
Crude fiber, not more than.....	3.0%
Ash, not more than.....	12.0%
Added mineral ingredients, not more than.....	2.0%

INGREDIENTS: fish meal, wheat feed flour, blood meal, fish oil, ascorbic acid, biotin, choline chloride, folic acid, niacin, pantothenic acid (d-calcium pantothenate), pyroxidine (hydrochloride), riboflavin, thiamine (mononitrate), vitamin B12 supplement, vitamin

A (acetate), vitamin D (d-activated animal sterol), vitamin E (dl-alpha-tocopheryl acetate), vitamin K3 (menadione sodium bisulfite complex), copper sulfate, manganese sulfate, potassium iodate, salt, zinc, sulfate, ethoxyquin (preservative) propionic acid, sorbic acid, propylene glycol.