

Making healthier foods for pets means having the right equipment in place

making healthy food choices has crossed over from man to man's best friend. More and more dog owners are selecting food that minimizes cereal and maximizes fresh, whole foods, like fine cuts of meat and fresh vegetables. Since its early days, Breeder's Choice Pet Foods has used only high-quality ingredients in its dog and cat foods.

A wholly-owned division of Central Garden & Pet Company, Breeder's Choice began making frozen pet meals in 1947. In 1960, the line expanded to include the company's first oven-baked kibble and biscuits, which exceeded the minimum pet food nutritional requirements in an effort to be the most nutritious products available. A bakery was eventually added to the Irwindale, Calif. facility in the mid-1960s, and today still operates, producing the company's all-natural baked pet foods and treats around the clock.

Breeder's Choice's number-1 seller is its AvoDerm Natural line of foods, treats and grooming aids. Using avocado as its prime ingredient, the AvoDerm foods have been deemed "miracle products" in maintaining healthy skin and coats.

The company's four other specialized lines include: Active Care, a foundation

for preventative care. Catering to dogs who often experience, or are prone to painful or achy hips and joints; Pinnacle, an allergen-free dog and cat food product line combining a wholesome blend of holistic ingredients with superior pet nutrition; and Advanced Pet Diets Select Choice, a dog and cat product line offering improved digestibility and advanced health performance.

Longtime customers of Clayton Steam Generators since 1995, Breeder's Choice recently had to replace an older 100 BHP Clayton Steam Generator to meet the latest emission rules. Other systems were available to this growing business, but they opted to stay with Clayton Industries.

Company principals chose a high-efficiency Clayton Model SSFG125M-1-FMB Steam Generator to replace its older one. The newer design was rated at 125 BHP and incorporated an ultra-low NOx fibre metal burner system that reduces the NOx emissions to less than nine ppm. The unit was approximately the same compact size, so there was no need to change the facility's footprint.

The Breeder's Choice plant operates 24 hours a day, with multiple product changes, so Clayton's rapid response to change in steam demand is an advantage. Constant temperature and pressure is important for a top-quality product. The 99.5 per cent quality dry steam enables those perfect conditions for perfect pet foods. The choice was simple: "Our Clayton Steam generators provide



us with consistent steam distributed throughout our plant and is a perfect partner in our top-quality pet food processing," says Clint Hammond, Operations manager at Breeder's Choice.

According to Brian Dominici, Clayton's senior Thermal Sales engineer, the Clayton steam generator offers many advantages over conventional designs. Among these are:

- » Compact size and low weight.
- » High thermal efficiency throughout its operating range.
- » Rapid start-up and load response.
- » Greatly reduced blowdown losses.
- » High-quality, consistent steam output.
- » Inherently safe non-explosive operation.

Because of these many advantages, Breeder's Choice can process varying quantities and types of pet products quickly, easily and economically. Supporting Breeder's Choice is Clayton's service team of trained and certified professionals. Their sole job is serving the customers who purchase and use the Clayton steam generators.

Breeder's Choice's line of healthy, pure pet food products continues to grow and expand, as the company looks to new ways to help pet owners give their forever friends the best. Moving forward, the company's use of Clayton Industries systems will continue. "Over the years, they have been extremely reliable, considering the hours and varying steam loads we operate at," says Hammond. "Based on our experience we wouldn't go with any other system." 🐾