Table S1: Primers used for the qPCR to quantitatively detect selected bacterial groups and species in the feces of cats fed diets with varying protein concentrations and qualities.

Bacterial group/species	Primer	Sequence	Base pairs	Temperature (°C)	Reference
Bacteroides/Prevotella/Porphyromonas	BPP1 BPP2	5'-GGT GTC GGC TTA AGT GCC AT-3' 5'-CGG AYG TAA GGG CCG TGC-3'	147	55	[1]
Bifidobacterium spp.	g-BIFID-F g-BIFID-R	5'-TCG CGT CYG GTG TGA AAG-3' 5'-CCA CAT CCA GCR TCC AC-3'	251	58	[1]
Clostridium coccoides cluster XIVa	g-Ccoc-F g-Ccoc-R	5'-AAA TGA CGG TAC CTG ACT AA-3' 5'-CTT TGA GTT TCA TTC TTG CGA A-3'	455	60	[2]
Clostridium cluster I	Cl-F1 Cl-R2	5'-TAC CHR AGG AGG AAG CCA C-3' 5'-GTT CTT CCT AAT CTC TAC GCA T-3'	239	63	[3]
Clostridioides difficile	Cdiff-16S-1f Cdiff-16S-1r	5'-TTG AGC GAT TTA CTT CGG TAA AGA-3' 5'-CCA TCC TGT ACT GGC TCA CCT-3'	174	58	Developed in the Institute of Animal Nutrition, Freie Universität Berlin
Clostridium leptum cluster IV	sg-Clept-F sg-Clept-R	5'-GCA CAA GCA GTG GAG T-3' 5'-CTT CCT CCG TTT TGT CAA-3'	253	60	[4]
Clostridium perfringens	Cpa1a Cpa1b	5'-AGG CGC TTA TTT GTG CTA CG-3' 5'-TCA ATC TTT CCA TCC CAA GC-3'	90	48	Developed in the Institute of Animal Nutrition, Freie Universität Berlin
Enterobacteriaceae	EntqPCR3417f EntqPCR3852r	5'-GTB TCD CCR CGC AGR C-3' 5'-TGC GYC TGG TRA TCT A-3'	454	55	Developed in the Institute of Animal Nutrition, Freie Universität Berlin
Escherichia coli/Hafnia/Shigella	Entero-F Entero-R	5'-GTT AAT ACC TTT GCT CAT TGA-3' 5'-ACC AGG GTA TCT AAT CCT GTT-3'	354	55	[5]
***Lactobacillus* spp.**	Lac1 Lac2	5'-AGC AGT AGG GAA TCT TCC A-3' 5'-CAC CGC TAC ACA TGG AG-3'	351	58	[1]
***Salmonella* spp.**	QVR133 QVR134	5'-GAA GCA GCG CCT GTA AAA TC-3' 5'-TGG CTG TGG TGC AAA ATA TC-3'	20	60	Developed in the Institute of Animal Nutrition, Freie Universität Berlin

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