

**Review of the Year** Year of the coronavirus



**Latin America**Pet popularity rockets



Fressnapf
Ambitious goals



Specialist magazine for the international pet market



Sustainability in the pet industry

## Global player with high ambition

Since Terra Canis was established 16 years ago, its creative ideas and innovative products have turned it into a big player in the German pet food business. The company has big plans in relation to exports too.

"Since early childhood, having a dog of my own was my biggest dream," recounts Birgitta Ornau, founder, partner and managing director of Terra Canis, fondly in an interview. The male mongrel

that she eventually got from a Spanish pet refuge, however, was a constant source of worry from the outset: he was very poorly, refused to eat and was unable to keep down the little that he consumed. As a consequence, Birgitta Ornau became a pioneer.

Since Terra

ago, its creative ideas and innovative products have turned it into a big player in the German pet food business. Birgitta Ornau's plan was to revolutionise the pet food market with products based on raw materials of 100 per cent food-grade quality. All ingredients were to be free of animal and bone meal, inferior

animal and vegetable by-prod-

ucts, abattoir waste, binding

Canis was established 16 years

agents, preservatives, sugar and flavour and aroma enhancers.

This was scarcely imaginable at the start of 2004. No bank or butchery wanted to come on board. Birgitta Ornau's concept

developed by Birgitta Ornau is based on the evolution of simple laws of nature. As descendants originally of the wolf, dogs are carnivores and omnivores. Apart from meat, innards and







The ingredients of Terra Canis products are of 100 per cent food grade.

Birgitta Ornau has a plethora of creative ideas for the future too.

and her ambition have taught all the sceptics a lesson, however. Terra Canis now claims to belong to the top three premium dog foods and describes itself as a market leader and pioneer in the field of dog food containing food-safe ingredients.

## Laws of nature

With its varied recipes, the nutritional principle of Terra Canis

bones, however, the wolf instinctively subsists on fallen fruit, berries, grasses and roots (partly via the stomach contents of its prey). The healthy, nutrient-rich list of ingredients derived from this forms the model for the entire product range of Terra Canis.

Unlike conventional moist food for dogs, the ingredients are of 100 per cent food qual-

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ity and are thus extremely appetising and tasty. The responsibility for this has lain for the last 14 years with the traditional Schäbitz butchery, a family butcher in the heart of Munich. Rapid growth, however, necessitated a rethink by Terra Canis,

ability. Intelligent heat recovery enables Terra Canis to operate an energy-saving production process. On the roof of the new plant, as part of a renaturalisation of industrial spaces, 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> has been turned into a meadow planted with special

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Birgitta Ornau

and in 2017 it embarked on the construction of a new production plant in Petershausen. The ultra-modern plant close to Munich is now fully operational, with a focus not only on the products, but on sustaingrasses and flowers that provide a habitat and food for bees and birds. Climate-neutral and recyclable packaging materials are standard, while work continues uninterrupted on optimising other sustainable processes.

## **Ambitious goals**

Terra Canis currently exports nearly 10 per cent of its products, and aims to increase this to around 25 per cent in the next three to four years. It is supported in this by Nestlé S.A., which acquired a majority holding in Terra Canis GmbH in 2017 without changing the status of the independent company. Committed founder Birgitta Ornau continues to be a partner and to drive the business and the ideas mill successfully towards the future. Her zest for the job is undiminished: "New products and ideas? I have an infinite number in my head, I just lack the time to do everything at once."



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