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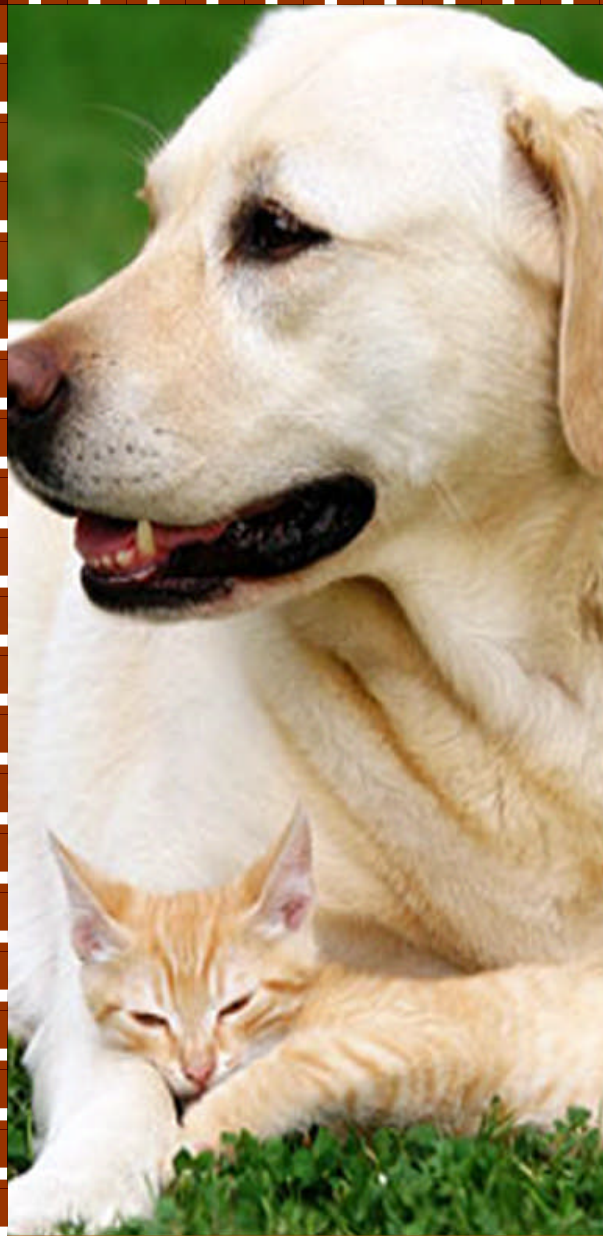


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## **The Importance Of A Dog's Diet**

Nothings greatly affects your dog's well-being like the diet you he feeds on, so, what makes diet so special? Let's discover more.

The fact that you love your dog speaks for itself, and of course he deserves to be loved, after all he's humanity's best friend. There is no doubt that you want to keep him in the best of health. Many ways exist for you to achieve that goal and providing a nutritious and well balanced diet is just one of them, doing this will ensure that your pet's longevity and good health is guaranteed.

Just consider how distasteful a hungry or malnourished person can be, and you will see the importance of well balanced and healthy selections when choosing a diet for your dog. If you compromise your dog's diet then you should not expect to enjoy a life at its fullest together.

A carefully selected good quality dog diet for your pet friend is surely going to maximize the possibility of a long lasting relationship together. Talk of healthy options for your pet's diet, and you should remind yourself that this includes vitamins and essential mineral nutrients that are vital to your pet's health. Don't forget to include additional nutritional supplements in your dog's diet. Consult with your vet about your pet's diet. They are best placed to offer you with professional advice, vital for you to make informed decisions about the diet of your pet. Remember to inquire about glucosamine and other essential fish oils that help fight health problems like dandruff and arthritis.

A dog's diet has great effect on your dog's energy levels. if you give vitamin and nutrients deficient diets to your pets, this will result to slothful and tired pets that cannot rest well. Suppose your pet requires additional nutrition for more physical activities, then a good diet is a must.

Your dogs output is greatly affected by the diet you give. A dog fed on a healthy and well balanced diet low on fillers has less output. This could also save you from the task of cleaning up the yard and dog kennel. Inquire from any handler who picks up their dogs waste and you'll appreciate the importance of a good dogs diet.

## **Dog Diet – The Right Food For Your Dog**

Remember that obesity is not just a human problem, it affects dogs too. Weight is another problem that you should watch out for. Diet also plays a crucial role in sustaining a healthy and stable weight for your dog. Additional snacks could seem like plain luxury, but they can lead to terrible health problems later on. Especially when overdone.

Best selected dog diet can also go a great distance in preventing reactions that come from food allergies. Reducing allergy problems will enhance your dog's well being and make him feel pleased. Most often easy change in the varieties of food we give to our dogs can make a great difference. Dog's diet has far reaching effects your pets well being.

A good pet diet greatly affects his exterior appearance and makes him look great. Reinforce good diet with proper grooming and you have a pet that has a magnificent looking and shiny coat. What a better gift to give your dog!

## **How Your Dog's Diet Affects Outputs**

You've heard of a hang-dog expression and yet when you imagine a sorry looking, sad doggy you know that's just not the kind you'd like owning, so why wait till you look at your own dog and go 'aww' for the way he does little by way of wagging his tail, lack of lively barking or dead-beat walking to realize a change of diet is needed for the desirable doggy output?

Yes, we are talking about inputs (what you put into the dog's mouth) being directly responsible for the outputs (what he gives out); of course, there are other environmental and biological factors at work too for a dog's health to get out of control, such as a recent illness, jangled nerves or perhaps a change of weather. However, the dog's diet is of primary importance in determining his output on a regular basis and this is what you as a loving pet owner need to educate yourself about – so your long-life companion stays that way and has a healthy one too (life).

Hygiene is a big part of your dog's health and while you may not quite take to the idea of forever cleaning dog-poop, you know that for your doggy to remain clean and health, it is important you keep the surroundings clean and for the after-meal mess to be easy to deal with, the diet better be balance (read fiber-rich for less loose bowels, but not overly so, to avoid constipation).

Don't go overboard in feeding your pooch and mini-meals while you dine at the table are a complete no-no; this is really no way to show you love your dog. Instead, it can make things rather difficult for you in the long run – especially when your dog can't run off the extra calories and ends up messing a real stinker of a mother-load!

Go easy on tasty treats like soft dog biscuits and rawhide bones that make for large, messy stools that are difficult to clean up after and include proper meal-time dry dog food that is easy on their digestive system and healthy in a nutritious and filling way! Go for veggies, dry hard doggy biscuits, oats and other such healthy dog meal options in your pet's diet to make clean up a manageable task and not a chore; take a tip from professional dog trainers who ensure a healthy, nutritionally balanced diet for the dogs in their care so that their outputs during training are manageable too, for wouldn't it be such a boo-boo in public places for poochie to do a poo-poo?



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Avoid accidents due to unhealthy dog diets and fix an appointment with your local vet today to determine the best diet for your pet, including asking about the various kinds of dry dog foods you can include that will benefit as filling food and also promote oral health as well as overall well-being of your four-legged friend!

## **A Dog's Diet Influences Oral Health**

You may all know the importance of daily brushing and flossing for regular good health of your teeth and gums, but that's as humans and also thanks to dental health education being so updated today. But, did you stop to consider the fact that since science has revealed oral health benefits us by lowering our risk of cardiac problems, it could well be the same for our canine pals? Keeping this medical fact in mind, pet owners are advised to pay extra attention to cleaning their dog's teeth regularly to keep diseases such as plaque and tartar at bay; even a simple swipe across Fido's gums with a clean damp cloth should do the trick!

Moving on from the basics to the more advanced techniques for maintaining your dog's oral health: first understand the importance of proper, balanced and nutritious diet for your pooch i.e. canned food or dry food, any treats and toys apart from regular meals and how much exercise and post-meal oral hygiene is practiced? These are all questions pertinent to your dog's good oral health maintenance program.

It is strongly suggested that as a caring dog owner, you provide your dog with a daily diet filled with nutritional foods and multivitamins, if he needs them. It is preferable to give your dog dry dog food as compared to the moist, tinned stuff that since this rubs against the teeth to perform the action of a plaque-remover and over time, reduces it too. Adding water to the dry dog food or even adding gravy to it robs the small kibbles of this essential property, so dog owners beware!

As for the treats you give your dog – well, they aren't much different from the snacks we humans munch on, which we all know are not that great for us either since there are very few of us that actually reach for that recommended crunchy fruit or veggies bag when our stomach growls! So, let these be a rare treat and of dog-bones, raw meat, jerky or dog bikkies (unless they are the hard kind) and keep the greens and corn starch chews that have more than just empty calories like rawhide given between meals, typically. These actually help prevent tartar – so stick with the program, man – and you can be your dog's best friend by promoting his long life through a good, regular and well managed oral health program!

## **Dog Food: Thoughts For Consideration**

If you have ever wondered about what is in the food that you feed to your dog, it is worth finding out! Depending on the quality of food that you purchase for your dog to eat, you could be offering him/her a high quality diet that is full of wholesome ingredients, or you could be feeding him/her an unbalanced, very low quality food product possibly containing dangerous components to your dog's overall health.

Low quality foods contain cheap additives; cheap protein sources, and usually contain ingredients that you yourself would not think of ingesting. If this is the case, you would not want to feed this type of dog food to your dog. You need to find out what your dog food contains before purchasing.

How does one determine what is low quality and what is not? This may sound like a complicated puzzle, but it really is not. Below is a check list to keep in mind that will help you to know the difference between your run of the mill dog food, and a high quality product.

- Generally, low quality dog foods are sold in grocery stores, while premium products are not.
- Premium food products will usually cost a little more than the cheap food. This is the case because, to create a better product, better ingredients need to be used so this raises the price for everybody.
- Premium products will contain no animal by-products but cheap products will. This is the case, because animal byproducts provide a significantly cheaper alternative to quality nutritional sources.
- Premium products will contain no artificial colors, or sugar, while the cheaper alternatives will.
- When reading the label on a dog food bag, the protein component will be listed first. For a premium dog food this list will commence with a whole meat, such as a poultry or fish listing.

Another key fact to consider is your dog's current health. You may be feeding a low quality food product and are seeing a healthy dog as a result. What you do not see however is what is on the inside. Every dog has nutritional needs, and if they are not met, over time, that dog will begin to suffer as a result. Whether you notice it or not is dependent on how much attention you give to your dog.

A dog that is lacking in the appropriate calorie intake, may appear simply lazy to you, but may



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actually be suffering from caloric deficiency. A dog that appears to be overweight may be the way he/she is due to a poor balance of fat to protein ratio. A dog that scratches constantly may be dealing with an allergy as a result of some component of his food.

So, it is worth your while to spend a little more to ensure a good brand of dog food. Your dog will benefit immensely from a high quality, good balance of ingredients in his/her dog food.

The results speak for themselves. Premium products offer a stable platform for your dogs vitality, health and well-being.

## **Guidelines To Choose A Healthy Dog Diet For Your Pet**

Selecting a well balanced and healthy diet for your dog can be a difficult albeit challenging task if you let it. The colorful branding and trendy packaging can easily get the best of you and obscure your discernment of a dog food product. The dog's diet is one best secret to keep your pet healthy and vibrant for many years to come. It's therefore important that you purchase a diet that will supply your pet with vital nutrients and enable it to thrive.

Below are some tips to guide you in selecting the best food for your pet's diet. The first thing you should keep in mind is that dog's are different, just like humans. A diet that works well for your neighbor's dog may not be the best diet for your dog. So the first thing to do before you go shopping for your dogs' food is to consult your vet about your dogs' dietary needs. Vets are dogs best friends and will advice you accordingly on what best to buy and how to identify what's suitable.

After you have consulted with the vet, find out a respected dog food brand and make it the major constituent of your dog's diet. It's not uncommon to come across a good quality that you haven't heard of, but most popular and reputed makers of dog food provide a certain amount of security and safety about feeding your dog a healthy diet. Large and well known dog food companies take time to research on animal nutrition. Therefore, give your pet the advantage of enjoying the benefit of the manufacturer's wealth of information than going it all alone.

Choose from dog food that is age appropriate, this means that if your dog shows signs of aging, then consider a dog diet specially formulated for older/senior dogs. Nutritional needs of puppies are different from mature dogs. Find out the different types of dog food that meet the specific needs of your dogs. Sometimes the dog breed and size could make a significantly difference in the variety of diet that you are required to feed them. Diets specially formulated for puppies and other larger breeds is available. This is a good thing to consider when shopping for your dogs dietary needs.

Weight of the dog and its activity level are other factors worth consideration when deciding on which feed is appropriate for your dog. So, if you have a very active or underweight dog, you may be advised to select dog diet specially designed for such situations. If you decide to purchase a particular diet for your dog, consider the portion quantity. Obesity is a more severe

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problem in pets because it could result to hip troubles and significantly decrease your pet's lifespan.

Table scraps are strongly discouraged, because feeding your dog on table scraps encourages the begging habit and could likely result to obesity. You are therefore urged to maintain a stable high-quality diet for your dog, more so food specially formulated to meet your dog's dietary requirements is a plus. Supplement to a high quality diet if you vet recommends. Don't give excessive supplements, as this could result to a low quality pet health.

Consult your vet regularly for advice and insight on what best to feed your pets. A good diet feeding program will yield to good health for your pet. You are better off choosing the diet wisely. Only go for dog food brand that that is well regarded and match it to your dog. Giving a proper diet to your dog will translate to good health and a longer lifespan.



## **Tips To Consider When Determining Your Puppy Dog's Diet**

Diet plays a very crucial role in the well being of your baby dog, here are tips on what to keep in mind when shopping for your puppies dietary needs. Keep reading.

Puppy's are sweet to have around, they are not only beautiful to cuddle, but also make great company, to ensure that they are in the best of health and live long, a well balanced puppy meal is mandatory. But then what things need to be considered when choosing a good puppy diet? Always consult your vet before shopping for a puppy's diet. Puppy's dietary needs are different from mature dog's dietary needs. You should therefore avoid grocery store trips to grab that easily available dog food which might not be suitable for your puppy's diet.

There are many options to select from when feeding your puppy, here are some; natural and organic puppy diets are quite popular these days and you should consider getting some. A number of pet owners like feeding their puppy raw diet. Others may select kibble as their preferred dietary component for puppy food. With all these reasons valid, let's focus on the last one.

As you introduce the puppy to solid food, remember that good quality puppy feed with little kibble is ideal. Good puppy diet should incorporate all the vital vitamins for it to form a healthy diet capable of excellent growth. Puppy mealtimes are best given three to four times a day. If your puppy finds it hard eating the diet you give, try to soften the food by moistening it a little with water so that the puppy can eat it easily, but a point of caution is to avoid moistening puppy food with milk because milk acts as laxative in the puppy's diet. Water is better because it creates a softer and easily chewable cuisine for your little friend.

As the puppy grows and gets used to feeding on kibble as a daily part of his/her diet, you should consider slowly reducing the amount of water. If you intend to feed the puppy on dry dog food until it fully matures, then you should plan your diet switching earlier than later. Do away with dog food moistening because it could make diet switching a difficult task later on in life. Six weeks of age should see your puppy feeding on solid kibble.

Give your puppy all the kibble he or she desires during the early stages of weaning. Always remember to feed the puppy on the new diet of dog food at regular intervals. When the puppy

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approaches his or her fifth birthday, reduce the diet from the previous three to four times a day to only two mealtimes a day. By this time you should be well accustomed to the feeding culture and should have figured out the right day rations of food quantity necessary to give your dog a healthy diet and stable weight.

If you are not confident about the dietary needs of your puppy, then consult your pet's vet for advice. Majority of puppies have a round, cuddly and cute demeanor at one point in their young lives. At times it can be very hard to tell whether your puppy is overweight. Your vet is the best and easily obtainable help you have when it comes to answering this question. Seek his assistance concerning weight issues.

Providing a healthy diet for your puppy should not be a difficult task. Seek your pet's vet for advice, guidance and any information you may need to ensure that you provide the best diet suited to your pet's special needs, whether it's a senior dog, adult dog or puppy. Remember to choose your pet's food wisely because poor nutrition can do a lot of damage to your pet's health. Good puppy diet in the early stages will provide a very good foundation and will propel his/her growth significantly.

## **Dog Food: Nutritional Information**

Proper nutrition is very important for new puppies. It is important, because puppies will go through an accelerated growth phase during the first 15 months of their lives, and having a diet that can provide the optimum base for stable growth without exceeding or the depleting of necessary elements is very, very important.

Protein for example is needed in larger amounts by growing puppies than it is by the adult dog, due to the rapid growth of the puppy's muscles, joints and bones. The energy requirements for a puppy are considerably higher also making it essential for them to receive food nutritionally rich and calorie dense.

There are many different puppy foods on the market. This is to counteract the fact that certain breeds of puppies require specific nutritional elements in specific amounts. Little breed puppies for example, have a much higher metabolism than those of bigger dogs meaning that they need a different calorie density food than bigger dogs need.

When feeding, try to feed according to your veterinarian's suggested guidelines, or those set out on the label of the dog food bag. Usually, puppies are fed three times per day, dropping to two daily feedings after the pup is four months of age.

If you do not feed your puppy properly it can come up with all kinds of health problems. If you find that your dog has less energy, check its dog food. If your dog has diarrhea, check into how many feedings would be best for your dog.

A dog that is fed properly is frisky, playful and happy. You are happy to see your dog so happy so it is a lovely circle.

Feeding will depend on the breed and size of your dog so be sure to check with your Vet before starting a good feeding program. If you find a dog food that you like, check the label for feeding instructions. Of course, if feeding does not go as well as you hoped for, get a good opinion from your Vet and maybe start all over again with a new food. You will love your pet dog, regardless, but it is so much better to get off to a good dog feeding start from the beginning. This sure beats all kinds of trial and error runs on your new dog.



## **Where to Find Nutritious Dog Diet**

Locating the best and most nutritious meals for your pets diet can be a daunting task if you are not well prepared, below I focus on some of the most convenient places you can find dog food.

We all want our dogs to eat well, why? Because we understand the advantages of a well balanced healthy dog diet, the challenge we may have is where to buy this nutritious dog food.

Markets today abound with all types and varieties of dog food. We are indeed spoiled for choice like it's popularly said. Be it canned dog food or dog food in bags, it's all available and much convenient because all you have to do is pop into your local store, whether departmental or grocery. Store chains don't want to be left behind either, and they too are catching up with the trend, so you can't miss dog food in their shelves, besides they give you better prices for your purchase of dog food.

But suppose you are wary of purchasing your dog food products from the grocery store, then you should consider getting it from the stores that stock feeds animals. Companies like TSC frequently deal with clients interested in purchasing best quality pet food. They can be more than glad to offer you assistance in deciding the best meals for your dog, and even recommending the best brands for you that can best meet your dog's nutritional and dietary needs. You could also obtain expensive good dog food from such stores that may not exist in your Closest Wal-Mart.

Most companies have moved their products to cyberspace. These companies use the internet as their market platform for their organic and natural pet diets. This means you can use the internet to locate dog food products that feel good to you. Some of these electronic merchants will deliver the dog food product you purchase on-line onto your doorstep, feels good. Modernity has revolutionalized the way we feed our dogs, HOW CONVENIENT!

The internet offers you unlimited options when it comes to your dog's diet like never before, take advantage of it.

But do not be hasty and overlook the apparent. Consult with your vet about the best varieties of dog food. Some vets even sell specific dog food brands and other numerous varieties straight from their offices. Once your mind is settled on a certain kind of dog food brand for your dog,

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remember to show it to your vet when he comes in for check up or when you pick your monthly worm medication. A trustworthy vet cannot offer you dog food that is not good for your dog, because they understand the health problems it could lead to. Your vet is might be the best place to locate dog's food suitable for your dog's diet.

Do not be surprised that the best and highly nutritious dog food can be obtained fresh from your home kitchen or even your kitchen garden. There are pet owners who prefer to domestically prepare their dogs food. A dog's diet must have animal tissue present, some greens, and even grain. Meats, greens and grains carefully chosen can be domestically prepared to make sure good nutrition for your pet is maintained for you pet. If you have grown carrots and green beans in your kitchen garden, think about incorporating these to your pet's diet, it will do lots of good. Besides you won't have to worry about the source and preparation because you know already that.

Excellent dog diet could also come from the butcher. If you decide that your pet diet is going to be home made, you can undoubtedly find good quality animal tissue from your local butcher. Chicken breast and ground turkey is best.

Whatever type of food you settle for in meeting your dog's dietary needs, always seek your vets advice prior to making any diet changes. Once you have your specific diet figured out, make the best use of the healthier and handy method accessible to you.

## **Dog Food: Understanding Ingredients**

A good dog food for your dog meets with a specific, high quality ingredient base that provides a high level of optimum nutrition for your pet. Dog food ingredients are selected based on their quality, and are human grade, meaning that they are also used for human consumption. Usually a greater price tag goes along with the purchase of premium dog food as the cost to find, evaluate and test a high quality ingredient can be more expensive, and because of this, some dog food manufacturers substitute quality for quantity and opt for the cheap alternative.

They do this because they know that the uneducated public will, often times, opt to buy the cheaper alternative when given the choice. Also, it is more convenient to purchase your dog's food as your buying your own groceries, so purchasing your dog's food at the grocery store just makes sense right?

Wrong!

For those of you that are unaware, Alpo is a pet food manufacturer that manufactures pet food that is sold in grocery stores the world over. Being a reputable company, one would think that Alpo would actually care about the pets that eat the food that they produce, however for the trained eye this just is not the case.

Alpo Lamb Meal, Rice & Barley Formula

This dog food to the trained eye is as appealing as a day old glass of milk left out in the sun. The ingredients are of a low quality, making it a terrible choice of food for your dog.

First of all, the protein source is cheap and of a very low quality. Usually on a dog food label, the ingredients are listed from greatest to least. In this case, we have corn as the first listed ingredient, with chicken by-product, poultry by-product, animal fat, and finally lamb meal.

A good quality dog food will have the protein source listed first as this is the highest nutritional component to any dog food; however, we see here that "lamb meal" which is the only high quality ingredient on the above list is fifth on the list. The fact that there are multiple animal by-products on the list at all tells us that Alpo is using the cheapest protein source that they can find.

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The fact that these by-products are listed within the top five ingredients, is even worse, as these ingredient positions carry a lot of weight in the overall make up of the food.

This food is not fit for a dog to eat! The fact that Alpo makes millions of dollars in profit yearly by creating and selling cheap products tells me as it should tell anybody, that this company is just in the game for the gain, and you should never stoop to their level and purchase their food for your beloved dog!

## **Dog Food: Food Requirements**

Understand the proper food requirements of your pet! The better dog foods are called Premium for they contain the best of everything nutritious and healthy. You can find these types of dog foods at your Vet or specialty stores. Some grocery stores will carry some of these brands, too, but read those labels. Cheaper brands of dog food are called Commercial and are found commonly in your corner store and grocery food store where you shop for the family food.

If you feel you must buy cheaply, keep in mind that you will purchase cheap ingredients. This includes cheap sources of protein, which you really should not be skimping on. They will include cheap by-products and fillers, which provide little to no nutrition for your dog.

Take your dog's health into consideration. When you feed him cheaper dog food he will not be able to maintain his good health so be careful when you select your brand of dog food.

Feeding your puppy takes special consideration. Your dog will grow significantly during the first 15 months so feeding him the optimal diet that they need is very important.

Protein is concern number one. Your puppy will require larger amounts of protein during this time. The balance of foods must be met too. Balanced ingredients are very important to a healthy puppy!

Different breeds of dogs have different requirements. Consult with your Veterinarian to find out which choice is best for your puppy according to breed.

Find out the suggested feeding guidelines, as well. Feeding your puppy right will mean a happy and healthy puppy and you will enjoy your time with him as he grows and matures.

You and your dog will have many life's challenges along the way, as well as many triumphs and joys. Send your dog on his way to enjoy his life with you by buying and feeding the best of nutrition for your pet.



## **How To Know If Your Dog's Diet Contains Enough Fatty Acid**

If you belong to the general category of pet owners who'd like to own a dog with an enviable looking silky coat but doesn't love their dog any less for looking as if it was something the cat dragged in, you're not the only one who can benefit from this article. It's as simple as knowing that hair and skin benefit from adequate moisture and oil balance so when your dog's diet contains sufficient fatty acids, the coat and skin are encouraged to look and actually stay healthy. This is because fatty acids are essential for preventing dry skin and other problems like dandruff, so if Fido's a candidate for the dull coat advert, do consider raising fatty acids in his diet.

Medical research indicates that EFAS (essential fatty acids) are considered so for a reason: they are important for maintaining the skin's healthy appearance as well as the hair's. The most important ones among these are Omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids that are not produced by the dog's body and thus, need to be supplemented in the diet through various forms. These are typically diagnosed for dogs that have a skin problem and only on a qualified vet's advice should you go in for the recommended form of EFAs to boost your dog's diet for his better health.

At time, a vet may even suggest that the dog owner also include linseed or sunflower oil as fatty acids supplements and these additional changes should show definite results in about a month's time; of course, regular dietary supplements of such EFAs for 2 or more months is more likely to show desirable changes, but you do need to stick with the program!

The benefits of Omega 3 fatty acids are mostly for warding off cancer but they are equally good for improving heart health and joint problems while the tinned variety of dog foods are typically filled with Omega 6 fatty acids adequate levels.

You may be knowing that fish is a good source of Omega 3 fats but all kinds of fish is not good for dog diets, so you need to consult with your vet before supplementing your furry friend's diet with just any manner of fish! Flaxseed oil is yet another good source of Omega 3 fatty acids, but do not include this either without the nod from your local vet as the right balance of all nutrients are necessary for your dog to stay in prime health always and high doses can prove to be harmful for your pet.

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Go with your vet's advice for improving your dog's diet – and looks – with learning about the additional benefits of fatty acids and other kinds of supplements besides the right proportions of each in your pet's daily diet.

## **The Role Of Calcium In Your Dog's Diet**

Just like humans, dog's too need calcium in their diet, but what correct amount of calcium should a pet owner give? is there any danger in giving excess calcium? find out below.

It is every pet owners dream to have a healthy pet. For that to be realizable, you should ensure that your pet's diet is fully loaded with all vital nutrients to guarantee a good health. Calcium is one example of these essential nutrients that must be present in a good and well balanced dog diet. Most of us think of calcium in terms of strong bones and teeth, which is very true because calcium has to be present in your dog's diet for it to develop strong and healthy bones and teeth.

So what difference does too little or too much calcium levels make in your dog's diet make? Remember that too little level of calcium in your dog's diet is the major cause of a condition called rickets in pets. Rickets is any pet owner's nightmare, because it causes your pets bones to be soft and easily bendable under your dog's weight. Who likes to see that happen to their dear furred friends? Put you hands up.

Contrary to the above condition, excessive levels of calcium in your pets diet could easily result to abnormalities of the bone. This has been witnessed in large dog breeds. Puppies of such breeds tend to develop low density large bones which lack strength due to the high presence of calcium.

Proper levels of calcium in a dog's diet prevent such abnormalities from occurring. This is one of the many important reasons for selecting proper well balanced diets for your dog. Consult with a dog's nutritional specialist

In order to properly establish the correct amount of calcium to be included in your pets diet.

Calcium is a very important mineral in your dog's diet. Calcium belongs to the interdependent class of mineral nutrients that work together with other nutrients and vitamins.

Calcium works well with phosphorus. A proper balance of the two mineral nutrients, calcium together with phosphorus should be present in a proper ratio to guarantee a dog diet that will

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boost the potential merits for your pet friend. Animal nutrition studies have revealed that calcium mineral ratio parts of 2.0 and 1.0 coupled with 1.0 part phosphorus. When there is a wide variation in phosphorus and calcium ratios from this listed range, bone result will likely occur.

A dog diet composed of meats only will not yield the required amount of phosphorus and calcium necessary for proper formation of healthy and strong bones. That kind of diet could result to a ratio of about 18 parts phosphorus to 1.0 parts calcium. The main problem here occurs in absorption of these minerals into the pet's body.

The absorption of calcium and phosphorus is influenced by the presence of Vitamin D. if a pet's diet lacks the appropriate quantity of vitamin D, other mineral nutrients will not be of maximum benefit to the pet. Remember that too much of anything is poisonous and the same applies to vitamin D. try to maintain correct amounts of vitamin D in your dog's diet. Purchasing your dog's food supplies from a respectable dog food manufacturer is a good way to ensure that your pets diet is healthy.

When a dog is nursing or during pregnancy, high calcium levels in the dog's diet is much recommended. Such periods require you to feed your dog on additional amounts of well balanced dog food. Supplements are not mandatory under such circumstances.

Eclampsia or milk fever in layman's term cannot be prevented with calcium supplements. Milk fever is a metabolism condition that affects the mummy dog after her puppies' birth and nursing has began. It does not result from nutrients deficiency.

Do not supplement your pets diet with calcium or any other nutrient without expert advice from your vet or animal nutrition specialist. A pet's health can be severely affected when calcium is out of balance. Giving your dog a well balanced diet is important. Well respected dog food manufacturers always devote time and resources towards research on animal nutrition to make sure that they offer your dog good quality products. They do this by formulating dog food preparations that are well balanced and healthy.

## **Dog Food: Chicken In Dog Food**

When you select the best dry food for your dog, is it better to go with the chicken meal than the pure chicken?

Chicken meal is better because it is simply chicken that has been baked to remove bacteria and other toxins. Chicken is simply pure chicken. What you might not know about chicken, is that it is made mostly of water. If a label on a bag of dog food says 60% whole chicken that is quite misleading as that does not take into account how much of that 60% of chicken is left after baking it to remove unwanted substances!

When you read the label on the bag of dog food and it says 60% of chicken meal, your getting more of the chicken because the product has already been baked to remove unwanted affects such as bacteria.

### Converting to Dry Matter

If you really want to know what you are doing you need to understand that all pet foods have different levels of moisture. Canned foods can have up to 80% moisture whereas, some dry foods can have as little as 6%. This is important for 2 reasons. The first is that the food is priced by the pound, and when you buy dog food that is 80% water you get 20% food and the rest is water. So this means that the amount of food your pet consumes is small and expensive. The other reason for understanding percent moisture is to help you compare crude protein and fat between brands and between canned and dry. The listings on the label are for the food as it is, not as it would be on a dry matter basis. So without converting both brands of food to a dry matter basis you will not be able to compare them accurately.

Fortunately, the conversion is not that complicated.

If a dry dog food has 10% moisture we know that it has 90% dry matter. So we look at the label and check the protein level that reads 20%. Next, we divide the 20 percent protein by the 90% dry matter and we get 22%, which is the amount of protein on a dry matter basis. Does this make sense so far? Good. Now let us compare this to canned food that has 80% moisture.

We know that with 80% moisture we have 20% dry matter. The label shows 5% protein. So we



## **Dog Diet – The Right Food For Your Dog**

take the 5% and divide it by 20% and we get 25% protein on a dry matter basis. So the canned food has more protein per pound on a dry matter basis after all the water is taken out. We can do the same for fat, fiber and more.

If you can do the calculations, you can then understand the whole nutrition of the dog food.

## **Dog Food: Taurine In Dog Food**

Taurine is a water-soluble amino acid. It has recently become a hot topic when referring to the nutritional composition that makes up the human and animal physical structure. Taurine has been found to be very beneficial to various components of the mammal skeletal system such as heart, kidneys and blood.

Taurine – “A colorless crystalline substance,  $C_2H_7NO_3S$ , formed by the hydrolysis of taurocholic acid and found in the fluids of the muscles and lungs of many animals.”  
(dictionary.com)

Taurine’s main purpose is to act as a catalyst facilitating the flow of vital elements to and from cells. Elements such as Sodium, (Na) Potassium, (k) and Calcium (ca) depend on Taurine in order for them to move from one cell to another.

Taurine has been a present element in cat food due to its vital properties and just recently pet food manufacturers have been implementing Taurine into dog foods also realizing that this A.A. can be very beneficial to dogs as well as cats. Taurine is most abundantly found in the retina and cases of blindness have been linked to Taurine deficiency in kittens, however in most cases, the same studies showed a reversal of the blindness when Taurine supplements were administered.

Taurine is also very beneficial for the heart, and cases of dilated cardiomyopathy have been linked to low Taurine levels in kittens. (A disease or disorder of the heart muscle, especially of unknown or obscure cause.)

Not all dog food manufacturers add Taurine to your dog food so you need to read labels at all times to make sure that Taurine is included. Most manufacturers are out there to make a buck and are not at all concerned with your dog’s health. For this reason, we tell you to do your homework. You need to know as much as you can about what you are feeding your dog.

Dogs don’t know any better, of course, and will eat anything at all that is placed before them. Your dog depends on you to feed him the best.

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With so much competition, research is not high on a dog food manufacturer's list so that is why you must be so vigilant. Research takes time and money so you will pay for the better more nutritious foods. Take the time and do your own research to ensure that you have touched all of your nutritional bases.

## **Glucosamine In A Dog's Diet**

Okay, so if you're done with scratching your head over the mind-boggling varieties of dog food available in the market and wondering just which one of those tins with umpteen benefits and supplementary vitamins, minerals and fiber doses is the one for your pooch – let's move on to something that has proven goodness! Yes, we are talking big-time strong bones – with glucosamine, which you may have seen advertised on certain brands of dog foods as an ingredient; do consider including it in your dog's regular diet if you want to have a long-life companion that is healthy, strong and raring to go for that evening walk at anytime!

This can be possible with the scientific break-through provided by glucosamine being beneficial for humans with a joint health issue: a known dietary supplement, it has proven to be advantageous for maintaining good joint cartilage health and improving the lubrication of various joints, by acting as a building block element. This improves joint movements and since it has already worked for humans, it wasn't long before the goodness of glucosamine was tested for dogs as well; the results were good and proved beneficial for canine health being ensured at peak performance levels even as dogs grew older.

Simply put, the benefits of Glucosamine are best felt for improving the smooth functioning of joints and strengthening bones as it moistens and lubricates a dog's joints so diseases like arthritis, to which large breeds are predisposed to developing and joint/hip problems can be avoided.

In the natural form, glucosamine can be found in shellfish while the other source is fermented corn; the latter is suitable for veggie loving dogs. It is now being increasingly recommended to dog owners to strongly consider including glucosamine in their dog's daily diet as it is not only a health-building element, but also safe from side-effects of any kinds –even when taken with other medications and supplements.

Most of the high quality dog foods of today have realized the benefits of glucosamine and added them to their line of products with animal nutritionists have endorsed this on TV shows, magazines and even in doctor's clinics having felt the need to encourage dog owners to also realize the goodness of glucosamine for their pets. Even in supplement form, Glucosamine can

## **Dog Diet – The Right Food For Your Dog**

benefit your dog: as tasty treats are a-plenty for snack-time instead of trying to improve dog-health with pills, so it is a better bet to Go with Glucosamine!

On a precautionary note, if the dog food you currently buy for your pet already contains glucosamine, you may want to first consult with your vet to decide whether additional supplements are needed – before you change your dog's diet.



## **Green Bean Dog Diet**

People have toyed around with the idea of Green Bean Dog Diet for quite some time. Maybe you are one of them and you want to try. But what do you know about the "Green Bean Dog Diet thing?" has it advantages? Of course it may have, and what about disadvantages? Let's find out what this hype is all about.

If you decide to go the Green Bean Dog Diet as your preferred way for your pet, you need to be informed that you cannot feed your dog entirely on green beans. Subjecting your dog to a diet of green beans may not be a health wise smart choice for the pet's diet. As a pet owner you need to establish a balance in your pet's nutritional regime.

The concept of green bean dog food consists of typical dry kibble for your dog, combined with green beans. Green beans here serve as a healthy way of keeping your pet full in between meals. An ideal example could be a case where your arsenal is made up of 'say 2 cups of quality dog food a day to sustain a stable weight, instead, he's always on the scrounge and groping around like a street beggar for food. Feeding him green beans in addition to his regular food at mealtimes will ensure that his diet stays on track and also help him stay feeling full and pleased.

But is green beans intended for all for all dogs? The answer is NO; some dogs may not need green beans addition to their meals. Under normal circumstance, green bean diet is advised for dogs that need to cut down weight. Many dog owners continue giving green bean diet to their pets after the initial weight loss, the logic here is to maintain a stable weight for their pets.

The result of the above is a smiling pet owner and a pleased dog. Green bean diet beneficiaries. Pet owner's reason to smile is the realization that they are supporting their dog's health. Dogs will be pleased because of the generous portion served. Isn't it encouraging to take a look into the dog's dish and being met by the sight of kibble surrounded by appetizing helping of well cut green beans?

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Dogs seldom turn their nose against green beans. Addition of green beans to your dog's diet is healthy and valued. Your dogs will feel satisfied and is apt to respond with a more positive attitude and will rarely scrounge around in hunt for food.

The one major drawback you are likely to encounter when changing your dogs diet from regular to green bean diet is the addition of fiber. Some dogs digestive system react to this kind of change, you are therefore advised to constantly monitor your dogs outputs. Introduce green beans slowly and increase it little by little as time goes. Pet owners' decision on when to introduce green beans differs; some prefer giving their pets green beans at specific times of the day so as to keep the dog's potty schedule under watch.

Whatever your decision for introducing green beans into your pets diet, there are very few things to keep in mind. You cannot be feeding your dog numerous cans of green beans everyday. Buy a resealable lid that you can use to cover the open cans of green beans to ease their storage in the refrigerator in between meals. Use the same measurement you use for kibble or snacks to determine the quantity of green beans to give at any particular time.

When you notice a store that has green beans stocked for sale, always try to purchase some and stock up. Though green beans are not particularly costly, it's good habit to save some money to purchase them when you run out of stock.

Find time to buy canned green beans with no salt added, it a much healthier option for your dog's diet and it shouldn't cost you any more.

The diet of green beans is very beneficial. Watch your dog's consumption to avoid capricious outputs. The green bean diet is very good at keeping your pets weight in check, whether it's cutting weight or losing weight, it will do it nicely and make your pet happy.

## **Benefits Of Fiber In Your Dog's Diet**

Fiber is something of a filler element in the human diet and was looked upon as a good factor to include in a diet that one wanted to go on to add on some bulk; however, the equation has changed to accommodate the needs of pampered pooches today – and fiber is increasingly being considered the best thing after sliced bread for your dog's diet now!

Yes, the nutritional value of fiber cannot be emphasized enough and for it to be included in your dog's daily diet is as important for the animal's well being as it has been for the master's – so it is being realized by medical science today. A part of carbohydrates, fiber takes time to be digested by the body and therefore the amount of fiber to be consumed on a daily basis needed to be controlled and balanced for it to have any good effects on the health of a human as well as a dog's; excess fiber can actually have undesirable effects as it's hard to digest so the system way get out of gear for a while.

Therefore, it is advisable to speak with your vet about the exact benefits of fiber and how much would be too much for your dog, depending on his breed, amount of exercise he undertakes, weight, age and other factors that can affects a dog's diet.

If your dog is a bit on the chubby side, you may consider the goodness of fiber in his diet to loss that excess baggage and to also ensure a long and healthy life for your furry friend; of course, it is not a miracle food and for fiber to have any good results as a weight loss trigger factor, it does need to be combined with good exercise and all round balanced meal planning. But, what is important to remember is that fiber ensures your dog feels full and contented without the bane of having to fill him up with calorie-rich foods, so just a little extra fiber in your dog's diet can help him attain that desired weight though you do have to maintain a record of the right proportion of it in the meal.

Too much fiber in the human or animal diet can result in problems for the digestive system that can cause constipation also; dogs that are advanced in age typically suffer these problems more than their younger kinds, therefore it is usually not recommended for older dogs.

Just for the record, fiber is filling because it absorbs water that gives the impression of the intestines being filled-up, so the right proportion will help bowel movements become regularized

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and of the right consistency and prevent the problem of loose or messy stools. Research has also suggested that one form of diabetes mellitus can be controlled by including fiber in the diet as it works to slow down the absorption of sugar from the intestine; but whatever else it can do, a dog's diet can definitely be enriched with quality, hygienically prepared fiber-rich foods such as rice bran, apple, peanut hulls, beet pulp and soybean hulls besides oats (in moderation).

## **Are Supplements Good Additions To Your Dog's Diet**

Just as a proper balanced diet is vital to our well-being as humans, the same applies to your pets. One good way of enriching your dog's diet is through the use of supplements.

But then how do you tell if your dog's diet requires supplements? Or what type of supplements are good additions to your pet's diet?

Your dog's diet may not need to be supplemented at most times. Let's assume that you feed your pet on formulated diet from a respected dog food company that offers you a guarantee that your dog's meal is uniquely designed to provide a well balanced and healthy diet for your dog. When you occasionally give low quality meals to your dog that increases the need for additional supplementation. It's normal for vets to advise you to give your pets diet some boost. It's advisable that you supplement your dog's diet with a boiled egg a number of days in a week. This will add a good amount of vitamins A and D to your dog's dietary requirements. Vitamins A and B are vital for maintaining good bone makeup and healthy eyes.

Suppose you have resolved to take the matter into your own hands and create your own dog's diet by cooking at home or customizing a natural diet or you just want to ensure that your pets' health is at its top, you may require learning about the advantages of supplements. Then you need to know that your pet's diet could be well enhanced by addition of green vegetables, nuts, and whole grains. These food items will increase your dog's intake of vitamin B. other enhancement may include yeast, liver, and beans. Vitamin B is essential to your pet's health because it gives your dog healthy muscles and skin.

To strengthen your dog's immune system by warding off deficiencies, enhance the dog's diet with extra vitamin E. Wheat germ, bran, and vegetable oil are excellent sources of vitamin E. Another essential nutrient is vitamin K which abounds in plenty in liver, fish, leafy greens vegetables and seeds. Vitamin K is essential because it increases your dog's blood clot capability.

Glucosamine is another good dog diet supplement; this is because glucosamine has been verified to enhance joints health and keep arthritis at bay. Dog diet supplements could also be unsafe if done incorrectly e.g. you may be mistaken to think that you are doing your dogs lots of

## **Dog Diet – The Right Food For Your Dog**

good by supplementing their diet with raisins and grapes, a very terrible mistake. Such fruits have been reported to cause dogs death through renal failure after consumption. It is therefore wise to consult a professional before administering supplements into your pets diet just to be sure that you are doing the right thing.

Excessive use of calcium supplements is dangerous to a dog's diet. Moderate use of calcium is good for the formation of strong, healthy bones, but too much could be fatal. Big breeds of puppy tend to grow excessively large but weak bones when given excessive calcium in their diet.

Ensure that you have consulted with your veterinary about the dog's supplements you are considering to get for your pets. The vet should advice you on the suitable quantity of supplement s to include in your dog's diet. You and your vet both care for your dog's welfare and should ensure that you provide what's good. Giving a healthy and well balanced diet to your dogs is one of the simplest ways of ensuring that they have a long healthy lifestyle.



## **Does Your Dog's Diet Need To Include Supplements?**

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## **The Significance Of A Feeding Plan To A Dog's Diet**

The overall health of your dog is largely dependent on the quality of food you administer in the pet's nutritional regime. That's why it is essential that you give good food to fuel faster growth and maintain a healthier weight.

Similar to the nutritional value of your pet's food is the feeding schedule. Remember that dogs like humans need to eat on regular basis, delicious and nutrients loaded food and other treats should be closely observed as part of the dog's diet. Snacks and mealtimes should be given at intervals in a good feeding schedule.

Devise a feeding schedule depending on your dogs age and health, this will enable you provide nutritional requirements that supports the dog's diet. Mature dogs often eat a single meal during the day, but two meals are a good option.

Older dogs seldom require a feeding schedule variation from any mature dogs, though a dog's dietary requirements change with time.

Younger dogs require frequent meals in the course of the day. Puppies that are nursing should be allowed to nurse on demand. As you change your puppy's diet from milk to solid dog food, you could be required to give meals four or five times a day. When the puppy becomes accustomed to the new diet, you can decrease the feeding schedule to three times in the course of the day.

Time consistency should be maintained in administering your dog's diet throughout the day. Deciding the time is solely your personal responsibility, just ensure that that you stick to that time once established for a successful diet program. Don't vary feeding times drastically, e.g. if your feeding schedule requires that you feed your dog at 7:00 AM before work and 7:00 PM after work, stick with the schedule the whole week.

It should not be a surprise when your pet becomes antsy at 6:00 AM in expectation of breakfast. Your dog's diet is essential to him and he is justified for being anxious with anticipation.

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Treats too should be incorporated into the dog's diet as part of the dog's daily feeding schedule. If you teach your dog to expect a treat each morning after your breakfast, the pet will become accustomed to the ritual and will therefore expect you to live up to your promise.

Feeding schedule is important because it keeps your dogs diet on track. Daily dog feeding routine is easy to establish. An established dog feeding schedule will also make it easy to tell when to implement an elimination schedule. When house training an adult dog or teaching a puppy potty basics, its essential that you learn how to note when the dog needs a break or wants to go out. Sticking to a feeding schedule reinforced by a healthy diet will make the task easy. This could prove useful when you travel with the pet. Once you learn how to identify your dog's elimination schedule, it then becomes easy to plan proper potty stops. You will also be able to tell whether your pet is feeling stress by the change to the established schedule. Learn to uphold normalcy and custom as much as you possibly can.

Just as the substance that forms your dog's diet is important, so is the way you present it. A successful dog diet is based on value and schedule. An established eating schedule will teach your dog when to expect meals, hence save you from those begging tricks that land your hand in table craps or cupcakes which could be harm the pets health.

## **Protein And Kidney Failure From Your Dog's Diet**

Research studies have in the past linked dog's kidney failure to the high proportions of protein presence in dog's diet. Is your dog safe from these shocking revelations? If these allegations are true then you could be risking your pet friend's life by feeding him/her on too much protein. But is it really true? Find out.

Those research studies that indicated a link between kidney dysfunction/failure to dog diets high in protein have been disputed over time, the dispute is centered on the fact that the research studies were done on rats and not dogs. Rats diet is chiefly composed of plants, that makes rats digestive system intolerant to proteins because they have difficulty excreting protein and not because they'll die from kidney failure.

What about dogs "Is too much protein bad for dogs, right?" you ask. Do your own research and poll half a dozen nutrition specialists (not the guy who runs the local pet shop) and here is what you will find: There is no general agreement among expert nutritionists regarding what constitutes "too much" protein in the dog's diet. Research shows that dogs have a high capacity for digesting and utilizing diets containing more than thirty percent protein on a dry weight basis. (Dry weight basis means the food with no moisture present. Dry dog food in a bag usually has 10 percent moisture and canned food has about 74 percent moisture.) If left to catch and consume prey to survive, as wild canines do every day, dogs' diets would be even higher in protein than what is generally available commercially.

Think about this... do you ever see a stray dog grazing in a corn or barley field to allay its hunger? Nature has created a meat-eating machine in the dog and every day in practice will see the health benefits displayed by the feeding of meat-based diets. Dogs fed poor quality diets look and feel great only if their caretakers also feed table scraps such as chicken, meat, eggs, cottage cheese and other "left-overs." Meat such as chicken, poultry, beef or fish should be the first ingredient listed in any dog food you judge to be "the best".

"But what about the senior dog?" you might ask. Most people will tell you that high protein diets are bad for older dog's kidneys, maybe even your vet. But contrary to that this is what researchers have found out : In dogs that actually have kidney damage or dysfunction (regardless of their age) and that have a BUN level greater than 75, restricted protein intake

## **Dog Diet – The Right Food For Your Dog**

may be beneficial but not because of any adverse impact on the kidneys. The protein these impaired dogs ingest should be of high quality such as is derived from eggs, poultry, and meat. On the other hand, high protein levels in a food DOES NOT cause kidney damage in the normal, healthy dog!

So what does that mean for the senior dog? It means that you should not restrict feeding high quality protein to older dogs just because they are older. There is even some valid research that indicates older dogs may need a higher percentage of protein in their diets than they required during middle age. This shouldn't be a surprise to us because dogs evolved through the ages as meat eaters. The grain-based fiber diets for dogs did not even exist until seventy years ago when we humans demanded the convenience, simplicity and economy of dog food in a bag.

The "sine qua non" is this, and it is based on fact... protein intake does not cause kidney damage in healthy dogs of any age. So whatever you choose as "the ideal" diet for your dog, make certain that an animal tissue source is listed first in the ingredient list. Your older dog or cat should, if its kidney function is normal, receive the benefits of a high quality diet rich in animal-derived protein.

## **Dog Food: Poisonous Foods**

Usually, most dog owners take good care of their dogs and they are pretty careful about what they feed them. When it comes to feeding your dog you're your dinner table, though, there is much to be considered such as how sure are you that what you are feeding your dog is good for it?

It does not matter if you feed your dog from the dinner table only on occasion or on a regular basis – there are dangerous “people” foods that should NEVER be fed to your dog because some of these foods are like poison to your beloved dog.

Feeding your dog should be a careful affair. You should know that every morsel that you feed it is nutritious and safe. You can only do this by reading the labels of your dog foods, plain and simply.

Let's take a look at some of the considerations we should be discussing when it comes to feeding your dog table food.

- As a rule of thumb, usually any food that is acidic is not a good food to be offering your dog. Acidity can damage the GI track of the dog, leading to a number of nasty side effects some of which include; vomiting, panting, fever, restlessness, the list goes on.
- Grapes and or raisins are terrible for dogs and kidney failure has been documented in dogs that have ingested this fruit so stay away!
- Onions are also extremely poisonous to your dog as they affect the balance of red blood cells in the dog's body.
- Coffee will elevate your dog's heart rate; can lead to anything from seizures, to GI track difficulties.
- The second most common cause of canine poisoning in the world today is ibuprofen. Dogs love the smell of this drug and will do anything to get at it if a bottle is around the house and not securely locked away.
- The most popular treat people want to give their dogs is chocolate. This is a big no-no! As with coffee, chocolate contains caffeine that will elevate your dog's heart rate and can promote seizures.
- Always be sure to keep your animal away from rat poison! This is the world leader in canine poisoning and can be prevented if we take care to ensure that the rat traps are not where your

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dog can get at them.

Feed your dog properly and leave the “people” food to the people. Select a dog food that contains proper nutrition is balanced and is prepared just for canines. If you have any doubts about what you should be feeding to your dog, check with your Vet for a professional opinion and then follow what your Vet says to the leather. Even an occasional something from the table can be poison to your beloved dog.



## **Dog Food: Choice Is Important**

When feeding your dog, think about the following:

- The size of your dog
- The daily activity level of your dog
- The life stage of your dog
- Any health conditions that your dog may have.

If you don't take into account all of the above, you can be setting your dog up for a major crash that you could surely avoid by being smart and attentive to your dogs needs.

Too many dog owners care little about the foods they supply. They buy the cheaper brands, which have little nutrition. They feed their dog table scraps, which are poisonous to their dogs and they just don't seem to care, either.

When your dog is fed all of these substandard foods, they are set up for all kinds of sickness. Your dog can become lethargic and lack energy. They can be listless and stop being frisky. You might think your dog is tired, so resting more when in fact your dog could be sick. It is so important that you feed your dog right if you want your dog to be healthy.

The size of your dog will determine greatly the amount of food that you should feed him. For proper feeding regulations the bag will list approximate amounts, however if you are an experienced dog owner you will find that these recommended portions are not always appropriate for your specific dog. The label on the bag is just a guide, a little more, or a little less will not hurt based on your opinion. Trust your judgment when reading the label and do what you decide is best.

Your dog will have individual needs. No two dogs are exactly the same.

Certain breeds of dog have specific nutritional requirements that must be met in their diet for them to live an optimum lifestyle. Knowing this, dog food manufacturers have started to produce breed specific dog foods. Royal Canin is the leader in this regard and have a great line of breed specific dog and cat food products on the market.

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A high energy dog will need a high energy diet. Calorie rich food will benefit a dog that is highly active, for example a working dog, needs a high calorie diet, due to their active days assisting their masters to perform important daily tasks.

Choosing a dog food according to your dog's stage of life is very important to your dog's health. Your dog's nutritional needs will very depending on his stage of life and depending on your dog's size. Puppies need a high protein, high calorie diet. Adults need a balanced blend of all of the necessary elements, and senior dogs have specific food products with extra additives to take care of their special needs some of which being but not limited to joint maintenance, immune boosters, and ostio strengthening.

Regardless of what your dog's special needs are there is a dog food that fits. Your job is to find it!

## **Dog Food: Which To Buy**

With such a large number of different types of dog foods out there, which dog food should I buy to ensure my pet's good health? It is a responsible dog owner's job to select a balanced and nutritious dog food for your dog.

The simplest way to make a good determination on which dog food is best, read the label through and through. Don't just glance at it, be sure to read each and every item.

The label on a bag of dog food will list the ingredients from greatest weight to least. This is important to know because you will learn what components are present in the food in their specific amounts.

- If the first ingredient is whole meat of any kind, don't accept it as this measurement is taken before the meat is rendered.
- Animal by-products present in dog food indicate a cheap low quality alternative.
- Read the moisture level, if it is anything over 11, this indicates that the dry matter basis is of a low quality.

Things to look for:

- If Whole meat is not the first ingredient and Chicken or beef Meal is, this is good. This tells you that the amount of meat protein is a lot higher than it would be with whole meat as the listed first ingredient.
- Premier dog foods don't contain any animal by-product. This is good.
- Premier dog foods will usually contain less or equal to 10% moisture. This is ideal.

Chicken meal is simply chicken that has been baked to remove bacteria and other toxins. Chicken is simply pure chicken.

Chicken is made up mostly of water. If a label on a bag of dog food says 60% whole chicken that is quite misleading as that does not take into account how much of that 60% of chicken is left after baking it to remove unwanted substances! So beware!

When the label on the bag says 60% of chicken meal, you're getting more of the chicken because the product has already been baked to remove unwanted affects such as bacteria.

## **Dog Diet – The Right Food For Your Dog**

Dog food will come in so many different ways, shapes and sizes so being aware of what ingredients are used to provide your pet with proper nutrition is the only way to go.

Keep in mind that if your dog is not eating healthy, or if your choice of dog food does not carry the prescribed, needed ingredients, your dog will not be able to maintain proper health and can become sick.

A sick dog will not be playful, will be lethargic and will generally portray poor behavior. When a dog is receiving proper nutrition their coat is shiny and thick and they are happy.

You might feel happy about spending less on your dog, think you are getting a good deal but if it is not the proper nutrition, both your pet and you will pay for it in the end. Select the good, nutritious dog food and have a healthy, happy pet.

## **Dog Food: Don't Go Cheap**

When you spend a little more on your dog food you are getting a superior product and isn't your dog worth it? Knowing you are buying the best to feed your dog for his best health is its own reward. Your dog will look great and be happy. This is what every dog owner wants.

Dog food ingredients are important to pay attention to. Many dog food manufacturers count on your purchasing your dog food at the local store or grocer because this is so convenient. Most people like to pick up their dog food where they purchase their food for the family each week. Some dog food manufacturers that are carried at the grocer feel they can get away with cutting corners on your dog's good health. Don't buy into that or you will have a very unhealthy pet.

Most important to remember is to check your labels! Look for protein listed first so that you are certain to get the optimal nutrition for your dog. Avoid labels that contain multiple by-products on the list as this is inferior nutrition and not the food you want to be feeding your beloved dog.

## **Dog Food: Read Labels**

When selecting a dog food reach for a good food that is both nutritious and balanced. You will find out if the food is what you need by reading the label. When reading the label, be sure to do your homework. Keep in mind that most dog foods list their first ingredient as whole meal. Good as this sounds, this tells you that the meat has a high percentage of water and less nutritious.

You will also notice labels that contain chicken and chicken meal. Opt for the chicken meal as this means it has been baked to remove bacteria and toxins. Again, the ingredient chicken is 60% water, which means you are not buying good nutrition here.

When you feed your dog the best you can they are more apt to be healthy and happy. When you feed your dog inferior food he will become sick. He will stop being playful and will become lethargic.

## **Dog Food: Commercial Or Premium?**

What is the difference between commercial and premium dog foods?

The difference between commercial dog food and high quality dog foods is quite extensive however, there are easy methods that we as dog owners can take advantage of to ensure that we offer the best possible diet to our faithful companions.

### **Commercial Dog Food**

The commercial dog food market is heavily relied upon by wholesale and commercial stores as it is this type of product that contributes widely to the success of these consumer franchises.

For the production of a commercial dog food product, dog food manufacturers use a lower quality ingredient structure. This includes animal by product. Animal by products contain little nutrition and are thought of as fillers.

By doing this, the cost of production is low. The profit is high due to the public buying the product at a reduced price than that of the premium product. Most pet owners are not concerned with what the label on the bag reads. Many just buy their dog foods blindly and feel happy enough with what they are feeding their pet. Fillers (cheap additives) are included to make the food taste good.

### **Premium Dog Food**

Premium dog food is exactly what it says it is. These are good, nutritious products that are safe to feed to your dog. They are good because they are:

- Products that are manufactured with your dog in mind instead of the dollar.
- Products that are properly nutritionally balanced.
- Products that contain high quality ingredients.
- Products that take due time to be created allowing for proper research to be conducted
- Extensive product testing, example, Taste trials.

Commercial dog food manufacturers gain from our ignorance! Would you as a parent feed your new baby a low quality formula, or would you go with the more expensive yet far superior

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brand? A good pet owner will opt for the latter every time! Knowing how important a healthy diet is to the present and future longevity of one's dog makes the point for feeding premium dog food very well.

The below list is a simple guide containing things to consider the next time you go to purchase dog food for your dog:

- Commercial products are sold in commercial establishments such as grocery stores.
- Premium products are not sold in grocery stores.
- A lot of commercial products list whole meat of some kind as their first ingredient. This is misleading due to the measurement being taken before the meat is cooked, reducing it drastically.
- Premium products will not list whole meat as their first ingredient.
- A lot of premium products contain specific breed formulas best suited for your breed of dog.
- When buying a premium dog food, you will pay for what you get. In order to ensure a quality product money is spent to research, test and tinker with the product to create the finished product.

Premium dog food is worth it's weight in gold to your dog!



## **Dog Food: Buy Premium**

Premium dog foods are the best foods for your dog. They do cost more because they are of high value and so pay off in the end both for your dog and for your pocketbook.

Premium dog foods do not contain harmful fillers and inferior ingredients. They are both sound and nutritious. There are no colors or preservatives so your dog will be fed nature's finest.

Learn how to calculate to convert to dry matter when reading labels. This is the best value for your dollar and the best nutrition for your dog.

Taurine is an excellent ingredient in some dog foods. It is an amino acid and works to benefit the dog's heart, kidneys and blood. It works to carry essential ingredients to and from cells.

You should read labels carefully to see if Taurine is included in your dog's food. Not all dog foods will. When so many dog food manufacturers are just in business for the buck, keep this in mind when you select your choice of dog food.

Some foods are poisonous to your dog. Every day table foods that you and your family enjoy, for example, can cause permanent damage to your beloved pet.

The only food that you should be feeding your dog is approved foods by your Veterinarian. These come complete with sound nutrition.

Don't think that you are doing your pet any favors by offering him a wee morsel of your own food. Doing this only now and then is forbidden and should never be entertained. After all, why would you want to feed your beloved pet something you know will harm him?

Feed your dog on a good schedule and limit the amounts. This is the best you can do for your dog and this is a responsible dog owner's job.

In order for your dog to be at his best health it is important to keep your dog's weight down. All of that extra weight is not healthy.

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Choose dog foods according to your dog's size, daily activity level and health conditions. When you are doing this you are doing the best you can to take proper care of your dog.

Avoid the cheaper brand dog foods as these are inferior choices for your dog's best interest and help.

Your dog is an individual and so his needs won't be exactly the same as your neighbor's dog. Take all of these factors into consideration and you will be proud to be a dog owner.

## **Your Dog's Diet: Canned Dog Food vs. Dry Kibble**

Canned dog food versus dry kibble is an argument that has been going on for sometime now – or at least ever since commercially manufactured and artificially packed into aesthetic looking bags kind of goodies seemed to hit grocery stores that are haunted by dog-owners in the flurry of discovering the worth of the variety they buy for Fido! Well, the truth be told, a dog's diet is what determines every facet of their health and total well being, so it is only fair that a dog-owner and true dog-lover is bound to be faced by the above dilemmas sometime; however, wanting the best for your four-legged canine friend is not the problem – it's knowing there is too much variety!

Okay, so we were kidding right there – but the fact is that with so many options open, it can get a tad difficult to decide which one has more pros than cons for keeping as a daily diet option for your pampered pooch and which should only be emergency fare when his favorite dog chow is not available!

Many dog owners prefer to go with dry kibble while others prefer to quibble over the benefits of canned, moist dog food that comes in a variety of flavors and with as much supplement value as marked on the kibble; so how exactly does one get to know which has more advantages in the main components department till one actually does a scientific comparative analysis? Possibly, short of lab tests that compare results in a chemical break-down and biological benefits package, there is only the outward, obvious signs of a dog's glowing fur and strong, flexible and energetic body movements and possibly superior good looks – or, as it is the case with simple dog lovers – it's just a case of letting pooch choose his pet preferences in food!

You can consider discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each type of dog food with the professionals your dog trusts with his health i.e the vet and the dog trainer for example, who are two people who have enormous experience in dealing with healthy, happy and different breeds of dogs to know what works for each one. On the practical side of course, the prohibitive price tag of most tinned dog chow brands can be a deciding factor for dog-owners choosing kibble as canned food may not be affordable on a regular basis for the bigger breeds.

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Of course, the benefits of large chunks of real meat with lesser additives that is filling and nutritious cannot be overlooked in canned dog food; also it is something that appeals to their basic carnivorous nature that canned dog food is typically readily accepted and relished by all but the picky eater variety of dogs, so is good for maintaining good health, is moist therefore easy to chew and less hassle-free for the dog-owner too.

Now, coming to dry kibble – since it is dry and hard, with lesser moisture than canned dog food, it benefits the oral hygiene by preventing tartar and plaque problems; it also does not need to be put in the fridge after opening like canned food requires so is easy to store and carry on journeys, therefore proves to be economical, convenient and a healthy diet option for your dog.

Of course, the last choice for which is better is best made by your dog's vet and – Fido himself, so choose quality and good health will automatically follow whether you choose to go with kibble or canned!

## **Dog Food: Obesity**

Dog nutrition has to be the most important element to successful dog care that you the dog owner need to be aware of. Dog nutrition contributes largely to the life span of your pet and the quality of life that your pet leads. It is such a huge topic of interest right now that finding the right food and following the correct guidelines can be quite a challenge. Many dog food owners complain that they need to be scientists to understand the dog food labels!

Because there are now a vast amount of different dog breeds, pet food manufacturers have developed different types of food best suited for optimum dog nutrition for the specific breed of dog. Being aware of your own dog's specific nutritional requirements can be a difficult task in itself, and if you are not sure you can always speak with your Vet who will advise you on the best avenue to take.

Dog nutrition will change depending on the dog's age, the possible developing of bad health, etc. This said, providing the utmost nutritional base for a dog that is going through a difficult stretch for whatever reason is very important. Your Vet will be able to best help you in determining the appropriate food for your pet in cases such as this so be sure to check with him or her.

Below I have listed some general tips to ensure that your dog gets the most out of whatever food you do offer him/her:

feeding at the same time each day

When you abide by a feeding schedule, you can ensure that your dog's food is always fresh. Dog food that is filled in the bowl first thing in the morning is exposed to air and so will not be as fresh. Also, allowing for the food to be down all day, means that your animal can just eat all day long and we all know what that can lead to!

how much food your dog needs

This fact can be tricky. There are multiple factors to consider when trying to figure out the appropriate amount of food to feed to your dog daily. The activity level of your dog, your dog's metabolism, and genetics, are all factors to consider. What you want to attempt to do is feed your dog enough to maintain his ideal body weight. For information concerning the ideal body weight of your dog, consult your Vet.

feeding table scraps

Under no circumstances should a dog be fed table scraps. Not only will this develop into a habit on your part, but your dog will never leave you or your family alone while you are all at the table.

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Furthermore, certain foods are very bad for dogs to ingest, and can lead to toxicity and severe illness for your dog.

exercise

Simply exercising your dog can help to control excess weight gain if your dog is prone to this.

Another suggestion for controlling excess weight gain is to put your dog on a low density calorie dog food. Your Vet will be able to assist you in deciding if this is an appropriate option.

You may think that it is cute to have your dog on the chubby side, starting as a pup and then on toward adult form, but, it is not healthy so be sure and take your feeding your dog seriously.

## **Don't Use Table Scraps On Your Dogs Diet**

Many of us never give much thought to the stuff that constitutes our pet's diet, we seem to be pleased with the die hard habit of feeding our dogs with dinner table scraps, and so if this ain't good, then what's the best way to go? Let's find out.

We are all guilty, for we have done it, not once but many times, some are even doing it right now. It's endearing to see our pretty little furred friend smile at us from underneath the kitchen table. The tail in a wiggle and ears all perked. We definitely know what our dog is after, and that is a tiny bit of feast for dinner and of course it's not a big sacrifice to make on your part, neither does it hurt, it's just a bite after all. But Tinker is strongly against that sort of thing. Why? The answer is that a dog's nutritional regime/diet is not supposed to involve table scraps, understood.

Human meals are meant for humans, not dogs. Surprised by these revelations, lets find out more. According to nutritional experts, a dog's dietary needs are very different from humans. No doubt, we may eat much of similar things, but that doesn't relieve you from the injustice of feeding your dogs from table scraps. A dog's dietary need doesn't require all the extra goodies we add into our meals. Just as humans are afflicted with obesity and other diet related diseases, dogs can also get the same problems as well. If 80% of your dog's diets comes from dinner table scraps, then it's more likely that your dog will have trouble sustaining a healthy weight. To a pet, even few extra pounds of excess weight can have a significant impact on the quality and length of its life. So, stick to what works.

If your dog is not a choosy eater, then it could be a little bit tricky to let the pet be your homes trash bin, oh really! YES. It's a pretty bad idea. Some individual's meals could be harmful to your dog's diet and should be strictly forbidden from the dog's diet/nutrition. A fantastic example here is grapes; these are notorious for causing terrible problems to dogs. The dietary arsenal also involves popcorns and chicken bones. Another alarming addition is chocolate, VERY SWEET INDEED you say, but BAD NEWS to your dog's diet.

A pet's poor diet can be evident on the yard. If your dogs diet is wanting or deeply deficient, then the pet's output are likely to be greater in quantity, odor, and mess. Advantages of putting

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your dog on a well balanced diet will too be evident in the health of your pet, and even on those strolls around the yard.

It's only on very few occasions that a supplement of kitchen treat is all right for the pet, but never to the extreme. Consult with your vet to be informed about what healthy snacks for your dog's nutrition are. If you have no option apart from feeding Tinker at the dinner table, most vets advice that you give your pet pieces of carrots or ice cubes to munch on in-between planned feeding time. Providing these healthy substitutes to your pets instead of cupcakes and pizza, offers you the liberty to choose a nutritious and healthy bite for Tinker.

Stay informed so that the next time your darling pet ogles at your cuisine, offer him or her healthy treat instead of reaching for your chicken or fat laden steak. Alternatively you could keep your little pal busy with a refreshing ice cube. Remember to keep a couple of tender carrots within reach; this will help ensure that Tinker remains pleased and healthy. Doing the above will ensure that your dogs nutritional regime remains at it's best.



## **How Treats Affect Your Dog's Diet**

Most pet owners never seem to realize the effect that snacking can have in the overall health of their little friends until it's too late, lets focus on the significance of snacks in the diet of pets.

You are informed about the importance of a healthy diet to your pet's diet. You regularly consult with your vet about the best dog food and how best your pets feeding regime should be administered. So, whether you decide to go for processed canned food, dried dog food or you formulate your own raw diet, then you should be watchful because you could be missing something very vital in your pet's diet.

Feeding your pet on rawhide or table scraps may seem like a simple, fun and harmless thing to do, but you could be underestimating a catastrophe of significant proportion here because this simple treats can easily pile up and become a terrible problem later. You may have ignored this, but remember that everything you feed to your dog becomes part of its diet. A question to ponder over here is, how substantial are treats to your pets diet? Do you give snacks to your dog at the dinner table to escape the begging while listening to the wireless or do you give milk and bones on regular basis during the course of the day?

They types of snacks you give to your dog is very significant to the pets diet. Do you offer table scraps from the diner table and chocolate cookies, or maybe popcorn and fries? Are your fast food shop goodies also becoming your pets? Remember that some healthy foods for you may not be the same for your dog. Raisins make cool treats for humans between meals, but they could be potentially dangerous to your pets' health. Ensure that your furred friend's diet is composed of doggy friendly stuff.

Buckskins are very controversial. Most vets will advice you against incorporating them into your dog's diet. This might be surprising to many pet owners, who feel that buckskin is a cool treat; some even argue that it provides fantastic entertainment and is imperative to perfect dental health of the pet - What a fallacy!

Ensure you stick to what your vet recommends. If you feel the temptation to give buckskin overbearing, then give in moderation. Buckskins are notorious for thin stool formation and calorie deficiency.

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Dogs do not fuss so much over the types of treats you offer them, so whether you are giving buckskin chew, milk bone, or baby carrots, they won't give a damn, provided the treat is present, they are happy. If you give lots of treats in the course of the day, then you may need to modify the dog's diet so as to sustain a healthy pet weight. Snacking maybe real fun, to both humans and dogs, but remember that excessive snacking on wrong stuff may lead to serious health consequences.

Think about modifying your dog's diet by minimizing treats. Avoid the habit of giving big chunks of treats like milk bone all at once, reduce the treats to smaller pieces and offer them in smaller pieces at a time. This will prevent overindulgence.

Baby carrots, ice cubes and small apple pieces make an incredible snack to consider when deciding on a healthier diet for your dog. Such snacks create a little difference in general and also make the task of monitoring the dog's daily food intake quite easier for you. By doing this you will be able to focus more on the meals consumed during feeding time. Stick to a healthy diet to ensure that your pet has a long and healthy lifespan, and you will be pleased that you did played your role accordingly.

## **The Raw Dog Diet**

A raw dog diet would thus entail feeding your dog all the best of Nature's best: from meat, to choicest veggies to biscuits that are hard and likely to promote good oral hygiene by stopping the build-up of plaque and tartar and strengthening bones and giving a silky sheen to the fur.

If you've been to the grocery store each time only to return with befuddled thoughts on what actually the commercially manufactured and so expensively priced doggy kibbles packet could really contain, don't be too hard on yourself for not really figuring it all out as marketing gimmicks of the highest order! For how good can they really be when dogs seemed to be doing just fine without them till about a century or so ago and their owners were still as happy (and less confused) with the happy, barking and spontaneous reception they got when they returned home and Fido jumped up and down in joy?

After all, the first sign of a dog's good health is how happy he is and much of a dog's appearance such as shiny fur and flexible body movements come from getting fed a healthy, nutritionally balanced natural diet such as he was meant by Nature to eat: filled with benefits of fatty acids, fiber, protein and carbohydrates besides the moisture levels being consistently sufficient for a dog's daily nutritional needs. This means blood, bones and fat in balanced quantity of a high quality coming from animals that are bred in hygienic environments for the purpose of being disease-free and therefore prime-cuts for healthy meal options.

Consider looking at wild dogs for a perspective on how dogs were meant to live: they survive on their own and kill for food; first they feed on whatever was in the slaughtered animal's stomach, in this way balancing out the grains and veggies consumed by the animal (say, a cow or rabbit) and also getting the benefits of enzymes with the goodness of meat and bones that are rich in protein and calcium! So, if wild dogs and wolves can stay in such good health and have done so for so many years before processed dog food was even thought of, why can't our domesticated Fidos benefit from nature's goodness like them, too?

This is why we say 'Yeah' for a going with a raw meat dog diet that is a fine way to build up the immune system and also build up strong teeth and bones for your pet, so prepare it fresh each time it's your pet's meal-time and prepare it right and you'll have the answer to all dog-health

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problems such as weight, skin, bone-deficiency etc from putting him on a natural diet. Make sure your vet approves of all the main ingredients of a raw dog diet such as meat, vegetables, grains like oats and rice-bran as well as veggie juices in balanced proportions.

Meet with the friendly neighborhood butcher and arrange for regular purchases of ground meat that you can mix with half quantity of wet oats or whip up some veggies along with the turkey-meat, for example and voila! You have yourself the perfect pet food that is raw and protein-filled besides being healthy for Fido too! Carrots, watercress and beets are all good bets for your dog's daily vitamin dose besides helping the digestive system work better and induce better blood-flow but remember to avoid gassy foods such as cabbage, broccoli and turnips as these can give doggy-dear indigestion.

For fur that shines with all its worth, include flaxseed, which is great for building healthy joints too; in this way you can ensure your dog's health is a life-long treat you give him.

## **Senior Dog Diet**

Dog's food come in many types and varieties, some specially made for puppies, others for adult dogs and even for aging dogs popularly referred to as senior dogs, but what sets them all apart? Find out.

Though you may loathe it, there's nothing much you can do because aging is a normal process, so, when age finally catches up with your furred friend, the best way you can reciprocate for the many years of companionship is to make sure that your pet is healthy and happy for the rest of his/her life.

I'm sure you haven't missed the current hype about the amazing dog diets for senior pets. But then you may wonder where the difference is between the kibble, much recommended for older dogs and the ordinary dog food for adult dogs. Well, maybe there is, but if that is true, how do you know that the time is ripe to switch your dog to a different diet?

The best knowledgebase you can contact for reliable information on the above is your pets vet. You and your pets vet are the two best placed individuals to know the dietary requirements of the pet. Who else does? Let your vet address your concerns, reservations and questions to your satisfaction. The vet will then advice you on the necessary measures to take and if dietary changes needs to be done, how best to do that.

You should not be concerned about changing your pet's diet from adult dog food to senior dog food, if the dog is healthy, medically fit and maintains a stable weight. On the contrary, if your dog's weight becomes unstable or digestion issues arise, then you may have to switch. But if weight is the sole problem, try limiting the quantity of dog food you feed to your dog. This could be useful in addressing the weight problem.

A dog is considered senior when it is in the last third of its lifespan. Large dog breeds like the Great Dane, live to be 9 years old. So, if you own a similar breed then you could switch to senior dog's diet at the dog's sixth birthday. The poodle breed of dogs are advantaged in the age factor, because they only hit senior age bracket in their tenth birthday. Chiefly, a decision to change your dog's diet should be based on the dog's health status rather than age define in

## **Dog Diet – The Right Food For Your Dog**

years. Your pet's vet will help you establish the correct time that your dog's diet needs to be changed.

Senior dog food preparations are usually low in calories. This will help to curb weight-related problems. Senior dog food preparations are very rich in fiber, this helps prevent constipation prevalent in older dogs because of decreased bowel movements.

Senior dogs like senior citizens are also prone to renal failure. Therefore, dietary requirements of such dogs need to be very low in proteins so as to minimize the kidney workload which is often high in protein-rich foods. That is the reason why protein content is low in senior dog food preparations than in normal adult dog formulas.

Encourage your dog to eat dry dog food for good dental health. Dry kibble helps to combat plaque and tartar accumulation which could lead to tooth decay. If your senior pet has a problem eating dry food, you should either purchase moist and canned varieties of dog food or moisten it with water.

At your vet's recommendation, food supplements can form a good part of your older dog's diet. Dogs are at times unable to eat properly due to dental issues. Other senior pets may be unable to absorb the nutrients from their food for numerous health challenges. Supplements like daily vitamin and glucosamine are greatly beneficial to sustaining a healthy diet for your pet.

Glucosamine is very good for joint health. It can protect senior dogs from bone and joint-related health problems like hip dysplasia and arthritis. Essential vitamins include Vitamins E, A, and C. These vitamins are also great anti-aging components. Consult your vet about supplementing your dog's diet with such nutrients.

You have your pet's interest at heart. So, you should ensure that your senior pet has a good diet that addresses their particular nutritional needs. Work together with your pet's vet to make sure that your senior dog lives longer by having his dietary needs adequately addressed. Nothing affects a pet's health directly like nutrition; that means diet is essential and has to be addressed accordingly.

## **Vegetarian Dog Diet**

A vegetarian diet is all very well for a human who can educate oneself about supplementing for various missing nutrients (like those found in meat diets) through various herbal or other such medical supplements, but when it comes to giving Fido a veggies-only diet, can you stop wondering how fair it is on the creature born with grinding and tearing surfaces to his teeth?

Well, the truth be told, expecting your new pet to take to vegetables alone in his daily diet is as unlikely a proposition as hoping a wild dog or wolf will happily embrace leafy stuff, for they were really not meant to do so by Nature. However, since these creatures were basically meant to be scavengers and now have taken to being domesticated down the ages with considerable success and man's efforts to feed his most trusted companion grains and vegetables – and it has worked for some- the argument also arises whether it can be possible to ignore that dogs were meant to omnivorous (going by their teeth) and so, plants should be equally acceptable part of their diet, if not the only part.

Thus, not quite impossible but hard enough initially, the task of feeding Fido only vegetables is not really recommended by animal nutritionists who feel that for a dog's optimal body function and life-long good health and appearance it is important to include all types of nutrients for a balanced meals, which includes meat proteins etc. So, it's not looked upon as a mere means of keeping your dog alive, but keeping him in prime condition through sensible and balanced diet that an all-veggies diet simply fails to provide; yet, it can be done with some effort.

Compared to a dog that has a daily intake of a well balanced diet containing sufficient animal products, a dog on a vegetarian diet will have a lesser appearance, including reduced mobility due to lack of proper lubrication to bones and joints that protein from meat provides besides duller coat and skin; dogs of the wild on the other hand thrive on everything that moves, so are in better health mostly as are those getting all the amino acids from animal products.

Since a mere half of the 22 essential amino acids are produced by your dog's body, it is essential that the others be provided to your pet through his diet and only a qualified vet can properly advise you about the right course of sticking to a veggies only dog diet for Fido. So, do not hesitate to have a free and frank discussion with your local vet about any way to boost up

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your pet's health with only a vegetarian diet – he can perhaps suggest some multi-vitamins and supplements to create a healthy balance for your four-legged canine friend.

The dog diet must suit your lifestyle and the kind of weather your dog faces besides his basic nature, weight and age are other factors that determine what should be the guiding elements for deciding his best daily diet for a full and nutritious meal with the essential amino acids and necessary nutrients to ensure a long and happy stay with the family.



## **Make A Natural Dog Diet At Home For Better Health**

Actually speaking, there's no way to tell what really is in that box of doggy kibbles; cute as they look and as nicely packed as they are, packaged dog food at the mall with its endless variety of nutritionally balanced dog chow can be a nightmare for regular dog lovers who have a tough time figuring out the real value of all listed ingredients. But, there you are – these bags of commercially manufactured dog food just seem to be everywhere and so convenient to use, too – but, if you are a true dog lover and can spare the little time it takes to keep your furry, four-legged friend healthy and happy, you can be sure your home-made doggy chow will pass muster any time – you only have to know how to put the essential doggy diet together!

Easy to make and filled with natural goodness, the dog food you make at home is a reassuring sight for your eyes after hours of straining to figure out the various scientific names on kibble-packs, so take charge of your doggie's health now – make natural dog food at home!

Always consult with your vet about the meal options you can have for the breed, size, weight and age of your pet besides the weather conditions where you live; this is the best person to guide you about the various products and ingredients in the market and how to mix the right proportions for your dog's balanced nutritional meal besides educating you about any supplements the dog may require.

Raw or organic meat diets are preferred by many dog owners; the first consists of various cuts of raw meat, juices of vegetables and assorted grains while the latter has pretty much the same things, except these are organically produced or home-grown, depending on the kind of garden space the dog owner has!

With this natural meal option plan, you can afford the occasional processed food treats for your dog's tastes too, but it's preferable to stick with snacks like baby carrots or apple-bits besides ice-cubes in the summer! Frozen vegetable juice and homemade hard doggy biscuits (organic ones) make for good healthy and nourishing treats besides helping to keep the calorie count low for the dog's daily dietary intake.

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Up to 5 baby carrots a day are acceptable treats and you can always subtract any extra treats from the ideal calorie count for your pet anyway; so actually au naturelle is the best way to go for any dog lover with a keen eye to keeping dog-health a priority life-long!

## **When to Change Your Dog's Diet**

What factors influence a pet's need for diet change? And how does one tell that the time for diet change has come? Lets find out.

Just as your pet keeps you happy, you should reciprocate by making him/her healthy and happy too. This can best be done through diet change. But how is this done? And whom should I consult for advice and also learn more about what change needs to be done in my dog's diet?

Your dog may seem to be doing great from about any can or bag of dog food you get into your shopping cart at the grocery, but is that the reality? And how do you tell your dog's dietary needs are in perfect line? If you take down all the simple things concerning your dog. You'll discover that your dog's diet has far reaching effects on every aspect of its well being. That realization should help you monitor your dog before forming any conclusions.

Consider the following issues when deciding on whether your dog's diet needs to be changed or not. How does your dog act? Is it always groping around the house for scraps? Or does it rest comfortably after a meal?

A well fed and satisfied dog will hardly grope for food and will easily relax and go siesta after a meal.

What about his outputs? Are they thin, runny, or firm? A dog's diet is best observed in the output, if the output is bad news, his diet needs a boost. Observing the pet's output will help you tell whether the diet is suitable or not.

If your pet is frequently ill or regularly feeling under the weather, you may have to think about what the pet feeds on. Remember that it's the dog's diet that reinforces the immune system and maintains him in a cheery disposition. A diet deficient in vital vitamins and other mineral nutrients will never keep your pet in an upbeat condition.

As your pet matures you may be required to do a diet switch. Remember that a puppy's health needs are very different from an adult dog in regard to diet. Aging dogs could require senior diets to keep their weight under check and curb other medical conditions.

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A dog with low energy level is usually lazy or may appear high strung. Such conditions mostly arise from poor diet.

If you engage your dog in a lot of physical activities, then you may need to alter the diet to match his increased need for energy.

Dog's dietary needs are also dependent on where you keep them. Pets that reside outside during the cold seasons need additional calories to keep warm during winter seasons.

If you are in doubt about what kind of diet is best for your pet, then you may have to consult an animal nutritionist or vet for advice. These professionals will be very helpful in offering you guidance on what is good for your dog's special dietary needs, they will also discuss with you about the numerous types of dog feeds available and their merits and drawbacks. Work closely with your vet to ensure that the pet gets the best care. The vet can advise whether or not your pet needs diet change.

A lot of factors determine whether you need to change your pet's diet or not. Diet change is influenced by factors like health issues, weather, and age of the pet. Seek your vet's advice about the proper diet for your dog. Observation and education are two essential tools you can use to establish the state of your pet's diet.

## **The Best Way To Switch Your Dog's Diet**

Changing a dogs diet is not something that can be done overnight, it takes time and should be done the proper way.

At some point in the course of your dog's lifetime, you may be required to change the dog's diet. Maybe due to allergies, weight loss, digestive problems, or because your vet recommended it, or even due to a fluctuation in your finances. When that time comes, you should be informed about the best way to do that so as to ensure a seamless transition for your pet.

Consult with your vet about the doggie diet change; this is an important initial step towards the transition because you will want to consider all options available to you. After making a conclusion, you'll want to implement the transition gradually and over an extended period of time. Remember that suddenly stopping one food and starting another can cause a major case of doggie indigestion, so here's how to ease your dog onto a new diet.

Quick dog diet switching can possibly result to stomach upsets and diarrhea is a likely outcome.

Switching your dog's diet should be done gradually over a period of time. Like a week or two, reduce the amount of original food little by little and do the same to the new dog diet. An example could be, if normal meal time for your pet composed of 2 and ½ cups of dry kibble a day, it's best if you switch the diet at a minimal rate of 1/3 cup every day. Remember that if your dog is used to being fed two times a day, split the amount in two equal halves.

The first day of new diet implementation should see your dog fed on 3 and ¼ cups of the original dry kibble and ¼ cups of the new diet. This overall quantity should be administered in portion between the day's mealtimes. The second day of the new diet should involve original diet feeding of about 3 cups and ½ a cup of the new dog diet. Day 14 should see your dog warming up to the new diet without complications arising.

This new diet could seem slow in the beginning, but rest on the assurance that it's for good. Dog diets are very much different from the human diet. Humans can change their diets at any time they feel like, many times we differ things from one meal to another. On the contrary, a dog's

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diet is supposed to be constant. It's not advisable to change brands of dog food or methods of feeding often.

Once you discover a dog food brand that works well in maintaining your dog's diet, then you should stick to it. Once you have started to implement a new diet, wait for a couple of weeks or even months before you start assessing the results. This holds true unless your vet advises you otherwise. Instances may emerge where this isn't a credible plan.

Switching your dog's diet should only be done at the advice of your vet. If you are not acting on a professional advice, then ensure that a correct method of switching your dog's diet is done over a period of time. Allowing more time for your dog's to become accustomed to the new diet will minimize the effect of stress of diet change to your dog's digestive system. Diet consistency is good in sustaining a good health for your dog, so, when a particular diet is working well for your pet, it is good to maintain that diet.

## **When To Stop Your Dog's Diet**

Diet for humans as well as animals needs to be nutritious and balanced besides timely to have the desired effect and keep both species in good health; this is because too much or too little of the good stuff can be detrimental for the total well-being of either dog or master and moderation is the key to good health, life-long. Therefore, as one would make adequate changes in their daily diet if one needed to lose weight/gain weight or was advised certain foods to be restricted due to a disease, in the right same manner, as a caring dog owner, you need to incorporate the same in your pet's diet, albeit gradually, so as to ensure their health.

Any sudden changes in your pet's diet is likely to cause your dog stress and to avoid this kind of moodiness and digestive problem besides hunger pangs at odd hours, it is advised that dietary changes be made gradually and a weaning off period followed for foods the dog particularly likes, but which have been rule out for the sake of his better health. For example, in the case a dog is required to go in for any medical procedures requiring him undergoing anesthesia, certain foods may be stopped or meals completely given a miss before the procedure is performed; you, as the pet's caregiver need to stick with these recommendations much as your pet whines or growls as surgery on a full stomach is a dangerous thing.

In other instances, such as moving to a new neighborhood, it may be your pet that seems to go off his food; this may take some patience and extra nurturing on your part to get him to eat again once he familiarizes himself with the locality, but on other occasions, such as dog obedience training, professionals advice allowing the dog to skip a meal so as to keep them light and alert to instructions besides, the new situation and added stress of training can make a dog queasy, so food is best avoided.

Otherwise too, there has been so much to say about dog food being recalled on the basis of bad medical research reports and preservatives that do more harm than good, so you may have had to cut short your pet's diet for to avoid the cons of canned food; this is wiser than to take a chance with your pet's health!

In the circumstance of being unable to get your dog's favorite variety of dog chow, you can try home-made organic diet option for him or switch brands if you find a good substitute; this will

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ensure you have continued with the dog's food timing without actually breaking the meal pattern but ensured a change that's temporary so not likely to have an adverse affect on your dog's health.

In any of the above scenarios, you will find that making a change in the dog's diet was a matter of necessity and so you should be willing to do this too – so long as your furry friend does not have a digestive problem and the dog diet food substitute is of good quality, putting a stop to an old favorite too, isn't half as bad!



## **Your Vet Is The Ideal Source Of Help Concerning Your Dog's Diet**

You may ignore this fact but that doesn't change the truth, your pet's vet is the best guide you have concerning your pet's dietary needs and other related issues. Find out more.

Are you a seasoned dog handler or have you lately received the blessing of a new puppy? If you answered yes to my questions, then where do you seek for answers regarding the most dog related challenges you face on a daily basis? I can hear your whisper, and you are darn right! It's the vet of course. We get more others from friends and relatives who own dogs too. One of the many questions that dog owners grapple with are mostly centered on diet.

Your vet is one best placed person to answer your questions regarding your pet. He/she can help you establish the best diet for the pet and even suggest brands he deems suitable. He should be your first contact.

Good vets will adequately advise you about the basics of a good dog diet. He may also recommend some dry dog food varieties as the major component of your pet's diet; this is because dry pet food is good for excellent dental health.

Snacks are also a good point of discussion between you and your vet. You could inquire whether he encourages particular types of treats against others and also what the types of snacks he disapproves.

Dogs like humans are different; you and your vet understand your pet better. When you forge an alliance with your pet, he will help you discover the uniqueness of your pet's diet as opposed to others, he will also help you identify what needs to be changed in your pet's diet. You will discover that some breeds of dogs have problems maintaining a healthy and stable weight. Such reasons will have your vet recommend little portions of dog food than the amount specified on the side of the dog food bag.

Your pet's vet is a very significant figure in the health of your dog. He will inform you about what best supplements to procure for your dogs, he will suggest the best ones that can boost your

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pet's outlook and improve its appearance. Glucosamine is one of the essential supplements likely to be recommended by your pet's vet. This nutrient is essential for healthy joints especially for larger breeds.

Remember to carry along your pet's diet on your next visit to his office. Discuss with him about diet issues and have him examine your pet to see if weight is an issue, he can conduct a weight check to see if weight is an issue with your pet. A fine example could be when a dog has a dull appearance, your vet could suggest a different kind of dog food or he may suggest you add an egg to the pet's diet.

In your pet's lifespan, your pet's diet will have to be changed to accommodate the pet's need. Younger dogs and mature dogs could require extra amounts of protein or other essential vitamins and minerals. If you own a bred dog, the vet may recommend specific changes to its diet.

With a lot of hype making rounds about the perfect dog food, do not make your decisions in haste or go over it alone, this could see you select a bad diet. Consult with your vet and learn from him about what's good for your pet, he will provide plenty of useful information on how to administer these diets. Remember that a well balanced and healthy diet is the secret to longevity. Your vet has your dog's best interest at heart and will greatly assist you to ensure that your dog has a longer lifespan, and also point towards the best diets for your pet.

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