



DOG FOOD 101

THE DEFINITIVE EBOOK
ABOUT YOUR DOG'S FOOD,
DIET & SUPPLEMENTS!



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1

Let's Start With Some Dog Food Thoughts!

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 must find out what your dog food contains before buying.

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.

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- 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 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.



2

Is a Dog's Diet That Important?

Pet owners truly love their dog. He really is every man's best friend. There is no doubt whatsoever that you want to keep your pet as healthy as possible, for as long as possible. There are many ways to keep your dog happy and healthy. A nutritious diet for your dog is one of the best ways to positively influence the health and longevity of your pet.

If you consider how unpleasant a person can be when he or she is hungry or malnourished, you will undoubtedly understand the importance of healthy choices when selecting your dog's diet. Both of you will not enjoy life at its fullest if your dog's diet is poor and unbalanced.

Selecting a high-quality diet for your dog will increase the likelihood of a long and happy life for your pet. A healthy choice for your dog's diet will include the basic vitamins and minerals essential for your dog's health. Also, your dog's diet should include some extra nutritional supplements. Speak with your vet about your dog's diet because they will depend on your dog's breed and activity level. They will be willing to help you make informed and educated decisions

about your dog's feeding habits. Ask about glucosamine and fish oils to combat health issues such as dandruff and arthritis.

Your dog's diet will affect your pet's energy level. If the dog's diet is lacking, your pet may be sluggish or unable to rest enough. If your pet requires extra nutrition to run or walk considerable distances, an appropriate balanced diet is crucial.

Your dog's diet affects the amount and size of outputs, urines and feces. When your pet has a healthy diet with few fillers, they poo much less. This is important to lessen the cleanup of your yard. Ask any handler who picks up after their dog and learn the importance of your dog's food.

Obesity is not just a problem for people. Weight is also a concern for your pet. The diet plays an important role in maintaining a healthy weight for your dog. Extra treats can seem like a simple luxury, but they can create serious health issues when given to your pet frequently.

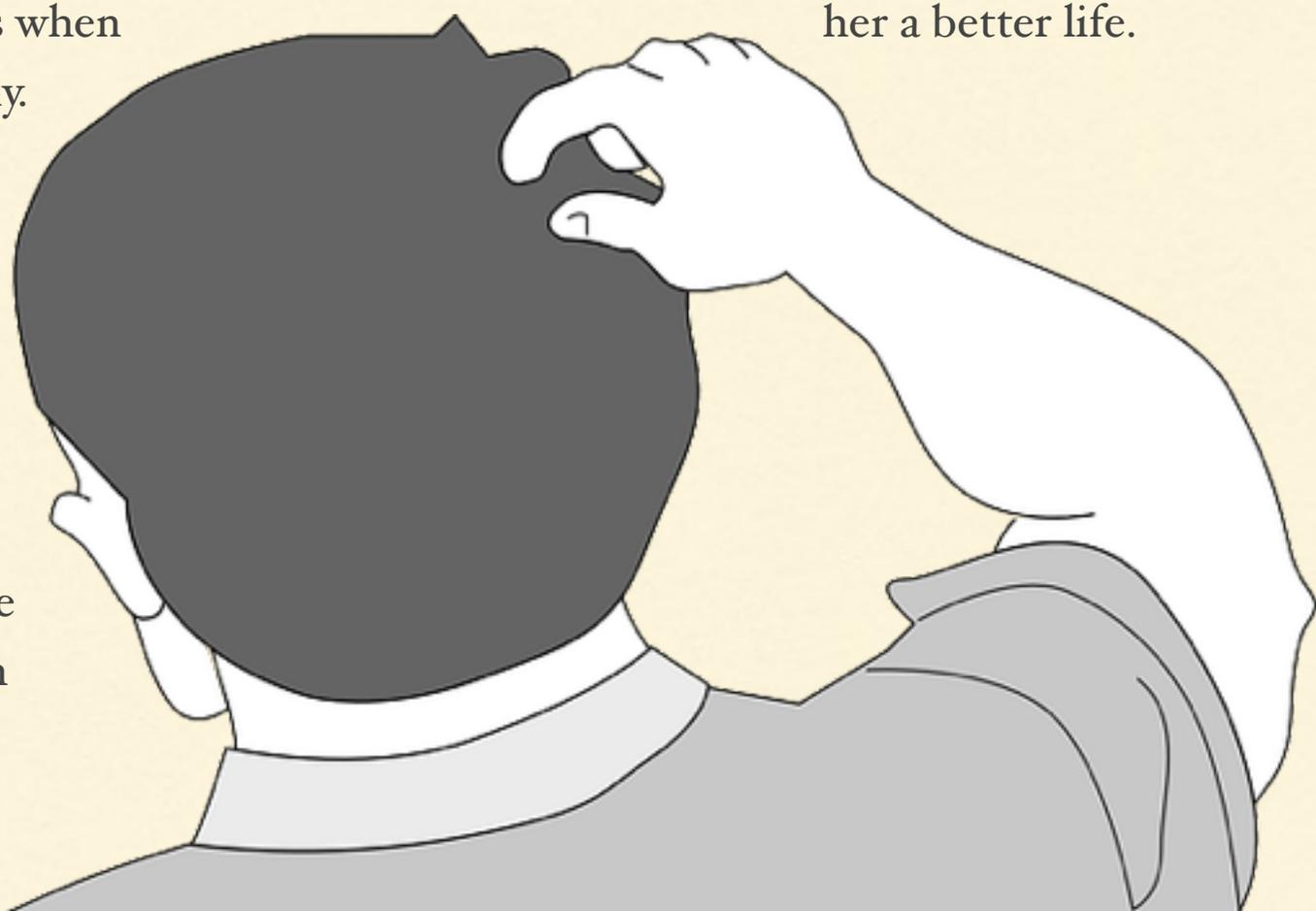
Finding the best diet for your dog can even help reducing reactions to food allergies. Decreasing allergy troubles will make your dog feel much better. Sometimes a simple change in the type of dog food can

make such a difference to your pooch. The diet affects every aspect of your dog's health.

Your pet's coat will look and feel better with a balanced diet providing the right fatty acids. Good nutrition and adequate grooming will keep your pet's coat looking shiny and magnificent.

The type of dog food you select for your dog's diet can even make a difference with your pet's dental health. Choosing a dry dog food can help to sharpen and polish your dog's teeth. Avoiding canned food when possible will help to reduce tartar and plaque.

As you can see, a dog's diet influences everything from excrements to teeth. Even your dog's energy level and attitude is affected by what he or she eats. Selecting your dog's diet wisely and consulting your veterinarian is the best way to offer him or her a better life.





3

Your Vet: The Perfect Resource To Educate You About Your Dog's Diet

Whether you have recently been blessed with a new puppy in your home, or you are a seasoned dog handler, it is wise to speak with a veterinarian about the best diet for your dog. With so many ideas, diet plans, and dog food varieties on the market, how do you know where to start?

Begin with your vet. A trusted veterinarian wants only what is best for your dog. Just like you, he or she wants to find and discover what is perfect for your dog's diet. Talk about all aspects of your dog's diet.

Your veterinarian can advise you on the basics of a dog's diet. Often, your vet will recommend a dry dog food. Dry food as the main component of your dog's diet, will increase the likelihood of good dental health for your pet, but this varies depending on specifics.



Treats are another area that you will want to discuss with the veterinarian. Do they encourage specific types of treats? What snacks are discouraged for your specific pet?

Each animal is different and you and your vet know your dog better than anyone. Working together, you will find what aspects of your dog's diet work best, and what needs to be altered. Some breeds, for example, will often have trouble maintaining a healthy weight. For this reason, your vet may recommend a smaller portion for your dog's diet than the recommended amount on the side of a dog food bag. If your older pet has trouble chewing, specific types of dog food may be beneficial as part of your dog's diet.

Your dog's diet plays a significant role in the health of your pet. Your vet can inform

you about any supplements needed to boost your dog's outlook for a happy and healthy life. Glucosamine is one item that is recommended by most veteri-

narians to promote healthy joints. This is especially true for dog's of larger breeds.

The next time you are in the vet's office is a great time to bring up your dog's diet. Your vet will be able to weigh your dog to see if weight is an issue. He or she can take a look at the overall health of your pet. For example, if your dog has a dull coat, your veterinarian may suggest a different type of dog food or to add an egg to your dog's diet.

During the lifetime of your pet, your dog's diet may need to be changed to suit his or her needs. Puppies and older dogs may require additional amounts of protein or other vitamins and minerals. If your dog is bred, your vet may recommend other changes to your dog's diet.

With all the hype about what is healthy for a dog's diet, do not decide to go at it alone and inadvertently choose a poor diet.

Instead, speak to the vet about your dog's diet and educate yourself on what is best for your beloved pet. A healthy diet is key to longevity. Both you and your vet want to see your dog live to be happy and healthy for many years, and providing a nutritious diet for your dog is one of the best ways to accomplish this goal.





4

Dog Obesity Is On The Rise (Big Time)

The latest **PAW report** from the *PDSA Animal Wellbeing Charity* shows anxiety amongst vets as they witness a surge in pet and dog obesity. Surprisingly, pet owners do not share the same feeling since nearly half the people surveyed are not aware it's a major issue.

[Click here to download the report \(PDF format.\)](#)

Pet obesity levels continue to rise with **80% of veterinary professionals believing there will be more overweight pets than healthy weight pets in five years' time** and 4 out of 5 veterinary professionals report having seen an increase in levels of pet obesity over the last 2 years. This report alerts pet lovers and dog breeders about the importance of an appropriate diet for a pet's lifestage, species and health, as well as teaching new owners how to prevent obesity-related diseases.

Depressingly, dozens of millions of dogs in the world have an outdoor exercise for only an hour a day or less, contributing to the number of obese dogs. Although obesity in dogs



rarely kills directly, it is scientifically proven that obesity is one of the biggest contributing factors to the development of several deadly conditions such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, as well as debilitating medical conditions including arthritis.

PDSA's research has shown that pet obesity is a growing problem and that too many people are continuing to feed their pets inappropriate foods including takeaways, cake, cheese and chips and sadly many pets aren't getting enough exercise.

Pet obesity is entirely preventable and we're trying to help owners understand that while their pets may beg for food, and giving a treat is seen as a way of showing affection, ultimately it could be killing them with kindness. - Nicola Martin, PDSA Head of Pet Health and Welfare

Pets, like us humans, need a balanced diet appropriate to their species, lifestage and

health. This year's PAW Report however, as with previous years, clearly indicates that too many people keep on feeding their dogs inappropriate foods, such as fatty treats and leftovers.

When considering how much to feed their pet, many owners seemingly still rely on "common sense" or past experience to make a decision. This is not how responsible dog breeders and owners should approach this problematic. Approximately 80% of veterinary practices offer weight clinics and dietary advice, and these should be the foundation of your dog's diet.

Visiting the vet once the damages are done and the dog's health is too advanced to be stopped isn't a good method, but a balanced diet shaped by your vet along with regular exercise will definitely increase your pet's wellbeing and probably yours, too.



5

Guidelines to Choose a Healthy Dog Diet

Choosing a healthy dog diet can be confusing and difficult if you let it. The pretty packaging and marketing can blur our perception of a product. Your dog's diet is the most basic way to keep your pet healthy and happy for the years to come. It is essential that you find a diet that will provide essential nutrients to allow your pet to thrive rather than merely survive.

Here are some simple guidelines to follow when you are selecting a food for your dog's diet. Know that every dog is different. A dog diet that is terrific for your neighbor's dog may not be exactly what your pet needs.

The first step when considering your dog's diet, is to talk to your veterinarian. This trusted individual has your pet's interest at heart, just like you. The vet's recommendations can steer you in the right direction.

Find a reputable brand of dog food to be the main component of your dog's diet. It is not impossible to stumble across a high-quality dog food that you have never heard of,

but a well-known and prominent manufacturer provides an amount of safety and security about the decision to feed your dog a healthy diet. Recognized and reputable dog food manufacturers take the time to research the topic of animal nutrition. Allow your pet to benefit from the company's wealth of information rather than going it alone.

Select a dog food that is age appropriate. If your dog is older and shows signs of aging, consider a dog diet that is specially formulated for senior dogs. Puppies have different nutritional needs than do adult dogs. Find a variety of food that meets your dog's needs. Even the breed and size of your pet can make a difference in the type of diet you should feed your pet. Diets formulated specifically for small dogs and large breeds exist. You may want to keep this in mind when selecting your dog's diet.

Activity level and weight are other factors to consider when making the decision of what to feed your dog. If your dog is extremely active or overweight, you may need to pick a type of dog diet that accommodates such situations.

When you decide on a specific diet for your dog, pay attention to the portion size. Obesity is a serious problem in pets. It can

lead to hip troubles and take years off your pet's life.

Table scraps are definitely out for a healthy diet. Your dog's diet should consist of a high-quality food specially designed to meet your pet's dietary needs. Begging is encouraged with table scraps and obesity is likely to result.

Only supplement a high-quality diet when recommended by a veterinarian. Giving your pet too many supplements in the dog's diet can lead to a lower quality of health.

Always consult your vet for advice on what to feed your dog. Your dog's diet will fuel his health, so choose your dog's diet wisely. Select a brand of food that is reputable and suited to your dog. Finding the right diet for your pet will promote good health and allow your dog to thrive.



6

Tips To Consider When Determining Your Puppy's Diet

You have recently welcomed a new cute and cuddly puppy into your home. A healthy diet is essential for a long, happy life together. What things do you need to consider when selecting your puppy dog's diet? Always talk to your vet about a proper puppy dog diet. Remember that a puppy dog's diet is not the same as an adult dog's diet. Avoid a trip to the grocery store to grab a bag of adult dog food to feed your pet. This will not meet the nutritional needs of a healthy puppy dog diet.

You can choose to feed your new puppy one of several options. Natural and organic puppy dog diets have become more popular in recent years. Some pet owners prefer to feed a raw diet to their puppy. Most people choose to use kibble as the main component of the puppy dog's diet. For this reason, I will focus primarily on this choice.

As you wean the puppy, a high-quality puppy food with tiny kibble is best. A puppy dog's diet should include all the essential vitamins to create a healthy diet for excellent growth. Feed your new puppy three or four times a day.

Your puppy dog's diet should consist of puppy food moisten with water. Do not moisten the puppy food with milk. The milk acts as a laxative in your puppy dog's diet. The water will create a softer, more palatable meal for your pet.

As the new puppy grows and becomes accustomed to eating the kibble as a regular part of his or her diet, you will want to gradually decrease the amount of water. If you plan to feed dry dog food in the future, expect to transition the dog's diet earlier than later. Continuing to moisten the dog food may make transition more difficult later in life. By six weeks of age, your puppy dog's diet can be solid kibble.

Your puppy should be permitted all the kibble he or she wants during the initial phase of the weaning process. Make sure you present the puppy the new diet of puppy food at regular times. Around five months of age, your puppy dog's diet should decrease to only two feeding time's per day. By this time, you should establish a specific quantity of food per day to ensure a healthy diet and weight for your dog.

Talk to your vet about how much to feed your new puppy. All puppies look cute, round and cuddly at some point during their first few months. It can be difficult to know when your puppy is overweight.

Your veterinarian will help to advise you on this issue. It is a good idea to open up the door of communication between you and your vet now. Both vet and owner only want what is best for the new puppy.

Feeding your new puppy a healthy diet does not have to be difficult. Talk to your vet for advice and information. Always choose a quality food as the main source of nutrition in your puppy dog's diet. A healthy diet for your puppy will set the stage for a healthy dog in the years to come.





7

Is Feeding Your Dog Super Expensive?

The cost of dog food is one factor that is extremely important when it comes down to feeding your dogs a balanced diet.

The price factor needs to be looked into from different angles during the preparation of the dog meal. You need quality ingredients or a healthy premium dog food. It is required for the wellbeing of your pooch and must include the right vitamins and mineral supplements.

Cost should, however, not be your first criteria while choosing the right dog food. Your dog's health is what matters, you must provide a healthy, quality and balanced diet, regardless of how much it is costing you. Think of your dog's wagging tail when he sees his meal!

The selection of the ingredients used to prepare homemade dog food should also be based on quality. Especially with homemade food as you can really handpick what you really want and sometimes pay cheaper offals to buy premium vegetables and carbohydrates! As long as the quality is here.

Food that use modern technologies of food processing like sterilization, air drying or freeze drying, oven-baking, etc., will certainly increase the cost. To cut the expenses you must favor local produces, your butcher's deal of the day, etc.

Canned items cost more than dry food. However, the cost of each depends on what kind of ingredients have been used to manufacture the food.

Food allergies need to be monitored when transitioning to a different diet, in case of sickness or loss of appetite.

Most of the dog food products available today are reviewed accurately and

fairly on several websites so you can make an educated decision. Reading labels and the famous list of ingredients of each manufactured food will help you avoid low-quality dog food, sometimes from famous brands that consumers would trust with their eyes closed. Always read!





8

Where to Find the Best Food for a Nutritious Dog Diet?

You want your furry friend to eat right. You are very aware of the numerous benefits of a healthy and nutritious dog diet, but where can you find the best food for your pet?

So many excellent types of dog food are out on the market today. You can purchase bags or cans of dog food simply and conveniently from your local grocery or department store. Store chains are now beginning to offer varieties of dog food that are higher in quality and lower in cost.

If you don't want to risk purchasing dog food from the grocery store, consider stores that sell food for animals. They would undoubtedly be able to help you decide on a specific brand of food to suit the needs of your dog's diet. Some upscale dog foods are available at such stores that you may not find at your local Wal-Mart or Tesco.

Several companies use the internet as a marketplace to sell their organic and natural dog diets. Look online to locate a type of dog food that feels right to you. Some merchants will even deliver the dog food right to your door. Your dog's

diet has never been more convenient. The internet has opened the door for pet owners to expand their choices when it comes to their dog's diet.

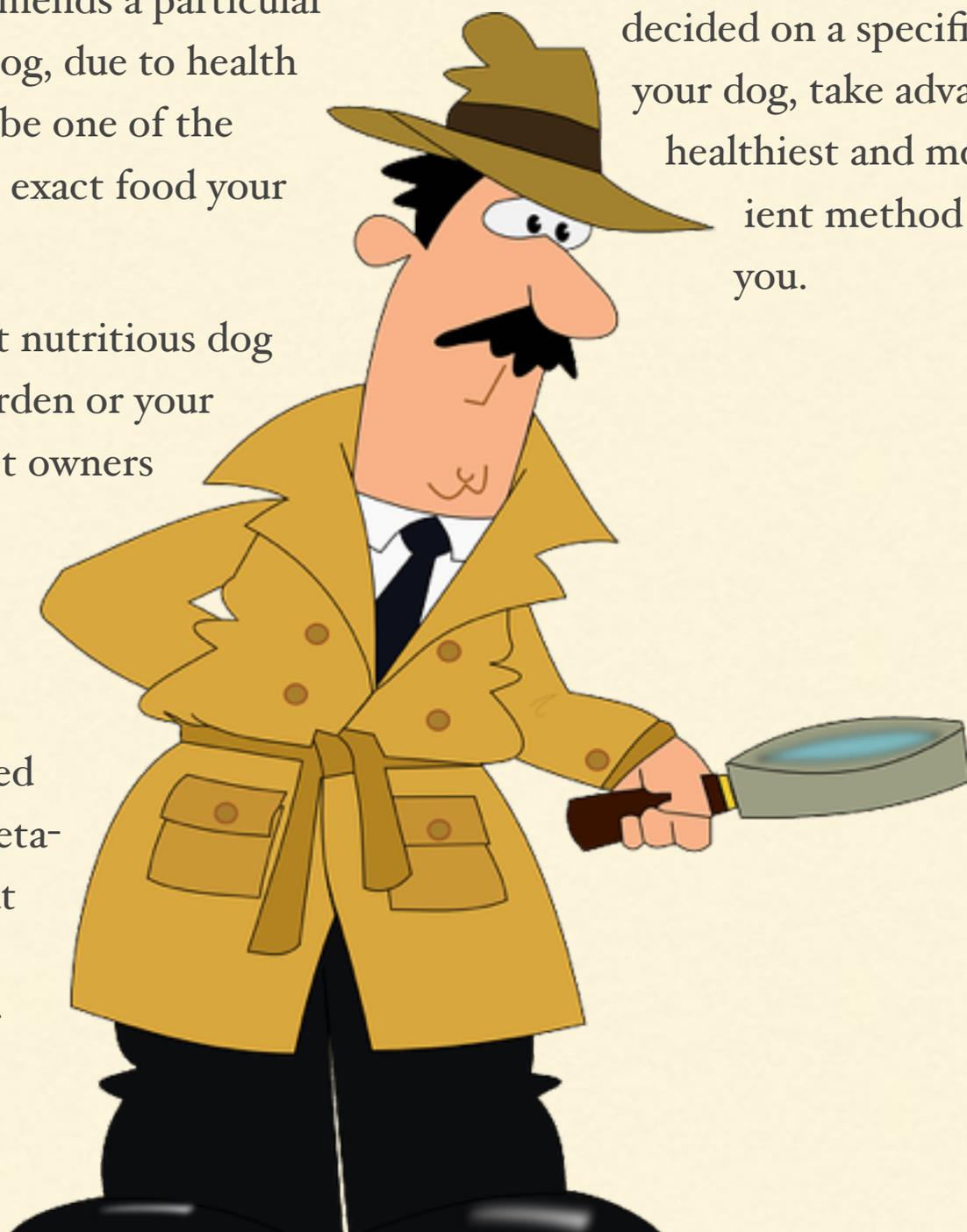
Do not overlook the obvious. Your veterinarian can consult with you about the best types of dog diets. He or she may sell specific brands or varieties right from their office. Once you have decided on a specific diet for your dog, consider picking it up when you bring your pet in for a checkup or while picking up your monthly heartworm medication. A trusted vet would not offer you food that is not suitable for your dog's diet, so this may be a great place to start. If the vet recommends a particular type of diet for your dog, due to health reasons, your vet may be one of the only places to find the exact food your dog's diet requires.

You may find the most nutritious dog diet fresh from the garden or your own kitchen. Some pet owners prefer to cook specifically for their dog. A dog's diet requires meat, vegetables, and grain. Carefully selected meats, grains, and vegetables can be prepared at home to ensure excellent nutrition for your

pet. If you have green beans or carrots from your garden, consider adding these to your dog's diet. You know right where the food has come from and how it was prepared.

A healthy dog diet may come straight from a butcher. If you choose to make your own raw diet at home, you will be able to find the quality meats and offals for your dog's diet from the local butcher. Fresh ground turkey or chicken breast is always best.

Regardless of what type of food you choose for your dog's diet, always consult the veterinarian before making any changes or alterations. Once you have decided on a specific diet for your dog, take advantage of the healthiest and most convenient method available to you.



9

Is Feeder An Old Dog The Same As Feeding a Pup?

Dogs need different diets at different ages. Yes. This is true. For example, the puppy needs milk as the major food component while an adult dog may need beef or chicken in addition to a boiled egg. So depending on the age influence, the diet schedule varies for dogs just like it does for any other species.

Puppies need greater amounts of protein, fat and carbohydrates than adult dogs. Furthermore, puppies need more frequent feeding sessions in a day, unlike an adult dog. The activity and exercise based requirements of a diet are also greater for puppies since they tend to be much more active than the average adult dogs.

Older dogs should always have fresh drinking water available and be fed with easy to digest and easy to assimilate proteins. Feeding aged dogs too much protein may eventually encumber to the renal structures and ultimately, the dog may end up damaging its kidney.

This is true especially when the immune system of these dogs is compromised due to many factors. Similarly, older dogs need less food only because the activity level of the adult dogs are highly reduced, therefore they spend a lot less energy, and consequently need much less too.

Female dogs, during pregnancy, should not be fed a full stomach because it can sometimes cause some discomforts to the animal. However, the pregnant animal and the nursing animal need special types of food that deliver a balanced type of nutrition with proper supplementation of vitamins and minerals.

The nursing bitch with puppies need to be fed with enough amounts of calcium to avoid any calcium-based deficiency. With the appropriate diet, the bones of the puppies will be strong, without any curving.



10

Is There a Difference in a Senior Dog Diet?

You hate to admit it, but your furry pal is getting a little older. You want to ensure that your pet is happy and healthy for many years to come. You have heard all of the hype about the new dog diets for older pets. Is there really a difference between dog food for adult dogs and kibble recommended specifically for seniors? How do you know when to switch your pet to a different diet?

The best resource for information about dog diets is your pet's veterinarian. Only you and your vet know the specific needs of your pet the best. Discuss with your vet your concerns and questions. He or she will be able to advise you on what changes, if any, need to be made to your dog's diet.

If your older dog does not have any health problems and maintains a healthy weight, there is no need to change your dog's diet from adult to senior dog food. On the other hand, if your dog has trouble keeping the weight off or digestive issues, you may need to switch. If weight is the only issue, consider slightly lowering the amount of dog food



you give to your pet. This may be all the change your dog's diet requires.

A senior dog is classified as a dog in the last third of their life span. Larger dogs, for instance a Great Dane, live to be about 9 years old. Around the sixth year of life, you may want to consider a senior dog's diet. A poodle, on the other hand wouldn't reach senior status until about age ten due to the longer life expectancy. Primarily, the decision to change your dog's diet should be based on health condition rather than actual age in years. Your vet will help you to determine when the right time is to alter your dog's diet.

Dog food especially prepared for senior dogs typically has less calories. This helps to combat any weight issues. The senior dog food also contains more fiber for the different needs in your dog's diet. As dogs age, they tend to suffer from constipation. This extra fiber will help remedy this problem.

Renal failure can be another medical problem for senior dogs. How can your dog's diet help this problem? Reducing the amount of protein in your dog's diet will decrease the work load for the kidneys. For this reason, senior dog food frequently has lower protein content than regular adult formulas.

Whenever possible, allow your dog to eat dry dog food to encourage excellent dental health. The dry kibble helps to reduce plaque and tartar buildup. If your older pet refuses to eat the food dry, you may need to moisten it with water or purchase moist, canned varieties.

If your vet recommends, supplements may be helpful as part of your senior dog's diet. Some pets are unable to eat properly due to oral issues. Other older pets are unable to gather all of the nutrients from their food for various health reasons. Supplements such as daily vitamins and glucosamine can be beneficial to maintaining a healthy diet for your dog.

Glucosamine helps to encourage joint health. For senior dogs, glucosamine can combat arthritis and hip dysplasia. Vitamins C, A, and E may prevent the natural aging process and encourage better health for senior dogs. Talk to your vet about adding such supplements to your dog's diet.

You want what is best for your pet. Your senior dog needs to have a diet that meets their special nutritional requirements. You and your vet can work together to decide what is the best diet for your senior dog. Your dog's diet directly affects his or her health. Take care of your pet by monitoring your dog's diet closely with the aid of your veterinarian.

11

About Food Allergies

Food allergies are something that is difficult to identify unless one is well aware of the basic information related to this type of allergy. The main symptoms of food allergies in dogs include the facial itching, limb chewing, belly itching, recurrent ear infections or skin infections. Allergic reactions mostly involve the skin or the gastro intestinal tract.

Since the dogs consume lot of processed food including various kinds of proteins, fillers, coloring agents and more; the occurrence of food allergies found in manufactured dog food are more common than one can imagine.

If you come across your dog itching after the provision of specific food, then suspect the food allergy his kicked in your dog's body. However, conditions like fungal infections need to be ruled out in general before the conclusion of itching as a sign of food allergy.

There are many recorded incidences of allergies of dogs to corn and wheat. However, food allergies vary from dog to dog but read the labels carefully and thoroughly is the best you can do, in most cases, before feeding your dogs.

Food allergies are often linked to the hyper active behavior noticed in dogs. Added colorants, preservatives, and high fat diet might cause such food allergies in canines.

In many instances, a food allergy can be diagnosed perhaps too quickly when the dog can actually be the victim of an other problem, such as pancreatitis. The best way to rule out allergies and get the right diagnosis is to monitor the dog for any changes, or any symptoms during the transition to a new food, brand or diet

There are many occasions where food allergies might be diagnosed in your dog but he may actually have another problem, like pancreatitis for example. To rule out the food allergy, observe your dog every time you feed him, look for reasons to link the symptoms observed with the food given and note specific signs encountered, new behaviors, and anything unusual as they are important signs to be on the look out for.



12

Avoid Giving Table Scraps To Your Dog

We've all done it. Our cute furry friend is smiling at us from beneath the dining table. The ears are perked up and the tail is wagging. We know what our dog wants. Just a tiny bit from our meal would be delightful, right? It can't hurt, right? It is just a bite or two, after all.

Put your hands on your pooch's ears, he won't want to hear this. A dog's diet should never contain table scraps. People food is for people. A dog's nutritional needs are completely different to a human's. Sure, we do eat some of the same foods, but feeding your dog from the table is one of the biggest mistakes you can make, and most of us do it. A dog's diet doesn't require all the added yumminess we put into our meals, they can actually become dangerous.

Us, humans, face problems with obesity. And dogs can be obese, too. If your dog's diet consists of scraps from the dinner table, on top of their dog food, chances are high that your dog will have trouble maintaining a healthy weight. Even a few pounds too many can really make a difference in the quality and longevity of a dog's life. Curb the begging!

When you have a dog who is not a picky eater, it can be tempting to let your pet be the table's bin. Certain people foods can harm your dog and should never be a part of your dog's diet. Grapes, for example, have been known to cause serious problems for dogs, sometimes lethal. Chicken bones and popcorn can also be a problem for your dog. Giving large quantities of chocolate can be dangerous in the long run.

A poor diet even shows up out in the yard. When your dog's diet is not at its best, your pet's excrements will be bigger in size, smell, and mess. Benefits of choosing a healthy diet for your dog will be noticeable in your pet's health, as well as during those walks around the block.

There are a few occasions when a supplement or treat from the kitchen may be alright, but never in excess. Talk to your veterinarian about healthy snacks for your dog's diet. If you simply must continue feeding him at the table, many vets recom-

mend you give your pet ice cubes or pieces of carrot to munch on between scheduled feeding times. Providing your pet with these healthy alternatives to pizza and cupcakes gives you the freedom to choose nutritious snacks for your dog! And they are completely guilt-free.

So, the next time your beloved pet starts staring at your plate, redirect his or her attention. Don't reach for your fatty steak or chicken leg. Instead, toss your buddy a cool, refreshing ice cube to bat around and munch on. A couple of baby carrots will keep Fido happy and leave you feeling good about your choices for the nutritional value of your dog's diet. You will know that you are doing your best to maintain a high-quality diet for your most valuable companion.





13

Canned Dog Food vs Dry Kibble

A dog's diet affects every aspect of its health and well-being. You undoubtedly want only the very best for your furry friend. When it comes to choosing the best for your dog's diet, you have so many options available. It can be hard to determine which food will have the best influence on your dog. Which is better, canned dog food or dry kibble?

Both types are loved by dogs but in very different ways. Dogs like dry kibble only if it is of great quality and tasty, whereas they seem to love canned food easily. Reason for such preference by the dogs is that in case of canned food, the moisture accounts for about seventy to eighty per cent where for dry food, it barely accounts for ten per cent.

However, if you view it in terms of nutrients, often dry food contains nearly ninety per cent of nutrients whereas the canned food products contain often much less nutrients and most of the times. Soy products and by-products are often used in canned food, and they are processed to look like pieces of meat.

To make up for the lack of nutritional value provided by canned food, the dog has to eat it in bigger quantities compared to dry food.

Many dry food items are soybean and rice based. In regards to dry food, some brands manufacture products based on corn. Sometimes, beef based or chicken based food items come in the cans along with mineral and vitamin supplements suited for the upkeep of the dog's health status.

The debate between canned dog food and kibble has been raging since both varieties have been on the market. What are the advantages of canned dog food as the base of your dog's diet? Is dry kibble superior to canned dog food? Assuming you are buying only the best quality from each variety, it pretty much comes down to personal preference between the two.

To help you decide, let's take a look at the advantages of each type of dog food as part of a healthy and balanced diet for your pet. To get the best advice, schedule a visit with the veterinarian to discuss your dog's diet. The two of you can talk about how each type of dog food will specifically relate to your pet.

Canned dog food, as the main component of your dog's diet, has gotten a negative stigma over the years. Many pet owners feel that the cost of canned dog food is high and unappealing, especially for the larger breeds who require greater amounts of food daily.

A significant advantage of canned dog food is the quality. Frequently, you will find that canned dog food offers large chunks of real meat for your pet. Fewer additives and fillers are found in most brands of canned dog food. Knowing the importance of high-quality ingredients, canned dog food certainly has its place in a healthy, balanced dog diet.

Another advantage of canned dog food in your dog's diet is palatability. Dogs will commonly take to canned dog food quickly. This can be a true advantage when you are dealing with a picky eater.

Dogs who have trouble with oral health and chewing will find the moist food easier to eat. If you note your dog is struggling to eat the kibble diet, then canned dog food may be just the solution to your dog's diet problems.

Dry kibble also has advantages in a dog's diet. The dry kibble helps to keep your dog's teeth healthy by removing plaque and tartar. Excellent oral health for your pet can be easily maintained with dry kibble as the main component in your dog's diet. The moist dog food from cans do not provide the same benefit.

Storage of the dry kibble does not require refrigeration after opening. This can make

traveling with your pet easier and more convenient.

Cost is yet another reason to consider dry kibble for your dog's diet. High-quality dry dog food is available to pet owners at a reasonable price.

Whether you choose dry kibble or canned dog food, you will always want to talk over the issue with your veterinarian. Canned food is great for picky eaters and pets with difficulty chewing. Canned food offers high quality ingredients for your dog's diet. Dry kibble is inexpensive and helps promote good oral health. Providing your pet with the best nutrition is the first step in caring for your pet.

Sadly, thanks to capitalistic dishonesty, every pet food company boasts how healthy they are for your companions when in reality, they are not. The chart on the next page quickly compares the quality of several popular pet food brands including Pedigree, MediCal, Eukanuba, IAMS, Purina, Nature's Recipe, Blue Buffalo, Pulsar, Acana, Orijen, and many others.



14

How Much Should I Feed My Dog?

Many people will give different types of answers based on their very own experience with their very unique dog.

Scientific facts related to dog feeding aspects in case of dogs need to be given emphasis during the feeding activities maintained in case of dogs.

For puppies, they should not be separated before they are eight weeks old and fully weaned. However, it happens to have to look after orphaned puppies. Usually about five percent of the body weight may be taken as criteria for the quantity of food to be given to the puppies.

One can have a thumb rule about puppy feeding: the owner should keep feeding the pup until you see visible fullness of the abdomen to a moderate degree. If you are going on feeding the animal without giving emphasis to the pup's stomach appearance, then the pup might experience digestive troubles with diarrhea. This may cause many inconveniences to the owner as well as the puppy.

Unlike adult dogs, the puppies need to be fed with limited amounts of food but more frequently. Once the puppy grows up and gets older, the amount may be increased and the frequency of feeding decreased.

A dog on a raw diet may consume only two to four percent of their body weight. Just observe closely the feeding pattern of the dog and his body condition. If the dog gains weight, just reduce the quantity of food and if the dog becomes too thin, then increase the feeding portion.

Just like puppies and adolescent dogs, older dogs tend to eat less than adult dogs due to their very low activity level.

Elder dogs struggle to digest and their kidneys can be in a less effective state which calls for limited amounts of protein but of higher quality..

15

How Often Should I Feed My Dog?

This is an important question asked by many dog lovers and dog owners.

If it is a six week old pup or less, the puppy needs to be given milk at the rate of five to seven times a day. The puppy will make some sound if it wants to feed in general.

However, the feeding frequency may be reduced when the dog becomes six to eight weeks old. By the time the dog reaches the age of four weeks, it may start taking some solid food. Hence, mix the solid food with water in majority and feed your puppy once or twice in the beginning and if the dog develops some diarrhea, then delay the feeding. Most owners will

learn and perfect their feeding skills with trials and errors, but simply observe your pup, learn and improve.

The feeding frequency may be changed to two to three times after the assumption of age of eight weeks. If the dog seems hungry, craving for food, then provide an additional small portion of food.

Around three months to six months of age, the puppy will be teething. Hence, restrict the feeding to two times only but a balanced type of nutrition needs to be provided to the dogs of this age group to avoid any sort of deficiencies.

From six months to one year, try using puppy food that is available commercially. From first year onwards, the adult food may be given gradually. The pregnant bitch may be fed an extra meal depending on her appetite, they sometimes prefer to eat less but more frequently as their tummy is feeling uncomfortable because of her puppies in it.



16

Importance of a Feeding Schedule in Your Dog's Diet

What your dog's diet consists of is very important. We all know that a dog's overall health and well being is fueled by a balanced diet and an lifestyle. But did you know that your dog's diet should be following a feeding schedule?

Just as important as what your dog eats, is when you feed your dog. Similar to us, your dog needs to eat regularly. Nutritious meals and snacks should be monitored as part of your dog's diet. Spacing out mealtimes and snacks or treats on a feeding schedule is a good idea.

Depending on your dog's age and fitness, you will want to establish a feeding schedule that supports your dog's nutritional needs. Adult dogs may only need to eat once a day, but two meals are rather preferred.

Senior dogs rarely need to vary from the typical adult dog feeding schedule, although the dietary needs change over time.

Puppies require more mealtimes throughout the course of the day. Nursing pups should be permitted to nurse on de-



Even the treats you hand out become part of your dog's daily routine. If your dog knows that every morning just before your lunch, you offer a chew bone, he or she will await the daily ritual.

mand. As you alter your puppy dog's diet from milk to dog food, you will need to offer food four or five times per day. Once the puppy has become weaned and used to the new diet, you may reduce the feeding times to three times a day.

Your dog's diet should be presented to your pet at regular times during the day. The specific time to present your dog's diet is solely up to you, but be certain to establish a schedule. Avoid dramatically varying your pet's feeding times. For example, if you feed your adult dog before work at about 6:00 AM and then again at 6:00 PM, try to stick with this schedule throughout the week.

Do not be surprised if your dog starts getting antsy at 5:45 in the morning in anticipation of breakfast. Your dog's diet is important to him and he is anxiously awaiting its arrival.

Establishing a feeding schedule helps to keep your dog's diet on track. It is easy to get in the habit of feeding your dog regularly. Plus, scheduled feeding times will help to predict your dog's elimination schedule. When you are potty training a puppy or housebreaking an adult, it can be helpful to have an idea of when your dog needs to go out. Maintaining a healthy diet and feeding schedule will make your job much easier. This is also very useful when traveling with your pet. If you know to expect your dog's elimination schedule, you will be able to plan appropriate potty stops.

Probably when you think of your dog's diet, you consider what food he consumes, but remember that *when* you feed him or her is just as important. A dog will come to expect his daily feeding schedule and routine so try to maintain normalcy and routine as much as possible.



17

When to Stop Your Dog's Diet

There are times when you should stop your dog's diet immediately. Although these situations occur rarely, it is important to know when and how to cease your dog's diet.

Typically, pet owners are advised to make changes to a dog's diet gradually. Consistency is frequently the rule of thumb when it comes to your dog's diet. Sudden changes to your

dog's diet often cause your pet stress and trouble, but at

times, stopping your dog's diet immediately is necessary.

If your pet will be having a medical procedure performed that involves the use of anesthesia, your vet may recommend that you stop feeding your pet for a period

of time before the procedure. As always, follow the advice of your trusted vet. He or she knows the dangers to your pet regarding surgery with a full stomach.

If you expect sudden changes and stress in your dog's life, such as a move to a new location, your pet may refuse to eat his typical diet. During the first day with a guide dog in training, trainers recommend to skip a meal to avoid stomach upset during this extreme time of stress for the dog. If you have concerns about stopping your dog's diet due to stress and illness, consult your vet for advice.

In light of recent pet food recalls, you will want to be prepared should you need to stop your dog's diet suddenly for safety reasons. In some cases, your dog may have already shown signs of upset or disinterest in contaminated food, but if not, take no chances with the health of your pet in the event of a recall. If your type of dog food has been recalled, stop feeding it as part of your dog's diet immediately. If possible, locate a new bag or can of the same variety of dog food that is safe for your pet. This will reduce any disruption to your dog's diet and routine.

If you are uncomfortable or unable to locate dog food that is safe in the same variety, you may want to cook a meal for your pet to substitute as your regular dog diet

until you can. At this time, you simply may just have to switch varieties or brands of dog food.

As mentioned before, a sudden switch in your dog's diet is not typically recommended, but in the interest of your dog's health, it may be necessary. Should this be the case, try to locate another type of dog food that is similar to your dog's diet in quality. This will help to reduce any digestive issues.

Your vet will best be able to advise you, but expect some digestive trouble such as gas or diarrhea during a sudden diet change. Of course, you will want to keep an eye on this situation, but it is not necessarily a sign of poor quality food. Your dog's digestive tract is not used to significant changes, so it will take a period of time to adjust to the new diet.

A sudden switch or cease of your dog's diet is not typically recommended as the way to go, but in some instances, it is for the best. Always talk to your vet about any change to your dog's diet and follow the advice. Your dog's safety is the utmost concern.



18

When to Change Your Dog's Diet

It is important to you to keep your pet happy and healthy. How do you know when it is time to change your dog's diet? Who can you talk to in order to learn more about your dog's diet and what needs to be altered?

It may seem that your dog is doing just dandy on whatever bag or can of dog food flops into your cart at the grocery store, but how do you know for sure that your dog's diet is right on track? Take note of some simple things about your dog. The dog's diet affects all aspects of life, so observe your dog before jumping to conclusions.

Here are some questions to ask yourself when trying to decide if your dog's diet needs a change. How does my dog act? Is your pet always scrounging around the house for crumbs and scraps? Can your pet rest comfortably following a meal?

A dog who is full and content will be less likely to scavenge and will be able to take a nap after a good meal.

Are your pet's outputs runny, thin, or firm? A dog's diet will dramatically affect their outputs. You will be able to tell if your dog's diet is appropriate for them by monitoring potty stops.

If your pet is routinely feeling under the weather or becoming ill, you may want to consider what is in the dog dish. The dog's diet is what feeds the immune system and keeps your pet feeling healthy. A diet lacking appropriate vitamins and nutrition will not keep your pet functioning at his best.

As your pet grows and matures, you may need to change your dog's diet. A puppy has different health requirements in regards to diet than does an adult dog. Older dogs may require senior diets to help combat weight or medical issues.

How is your pet's energy level? Does your dog seem lazy or high strung? The dog's diet may be influencing this fact. If your dog and you take walks for several miles, you may need to adjust the dog's diet to suit the increased level of activity.

Whether you keep your pet inside or out may also make a difference in your dog's diet. Pets staying outside in the winter may need extra food and more calories to stay warm during the cold winter months.

If you are ever in doubt about what type of diet is right for your dog, talk to a profes-

sional. Your veterinarian should always be advised of any medical or health concerns. He or she will be glad to discuss with you various dog diets and their specific advantages and disadvantages. Nobody knows your dog better than you and your vet. Work together to determine if your dog is showing signs that his diet needs a change.

Many factors can influence the need to change your dog's diet. Health concerns, age, and even the weather can be cause for your dog's diet to require alteration. Speak to your vet about the best diet for your pet. Good observation and education will help you to decide if your dog's diet is right on track.



19

The Proper Way to Switch Your Dog's Diet

Over the course of your dog's lifetime, there may be several occasions when you need to switch your dog's diet. It is important to know the proper method to change your dog's diet to ease your pet through the transition.

Many reasons exist that may cause you to feel the need to switch your dog's diet. A puppy, for example, must change from milk during nursing to dog food. Your adult dog may need to transition to a dog food diet specifically designed for senior dogs. Health reasons may be yet another cause for a switch.

After consulting with your vet about the change to your dog's diet, you will want to consider all of your options. Upon making the final decision, you will want to make the change gradually and over time. Do not stop feeding one type of diet on Sunday evening and begin a completely new regimen on Monday morning. Such a drastic change will undoubtedly create some serious results.

Switching your dog's diet too quickly can result in your dog having an upset stomach. Diarrhea is likely to result.

The proper way to switch your dog's diet takes several days. Over the course of two weeks, gradually reduce the amount of the original diet and slowly increase the food for the new diet. For example, if you typically feed your pet a diet of 3 and 1/2 cups of kibble per day, you will only want to change the diet at the rate of 1/4 cup each day. Keep in mind if you feed your dog's diet twice daily, divide the amount in half at each feeding.

Day 1 of the switch you would feed your dog 3 and 1/4 cup of the original kibble and 1/4 cup of the new dog diet. This total amount should be portioned between the number of meals during the day. Day 2 you would feed 3 cups of the original diet and 1/2 cup of the new diet. On day number 14, your dog's diet will have been completely changed over.

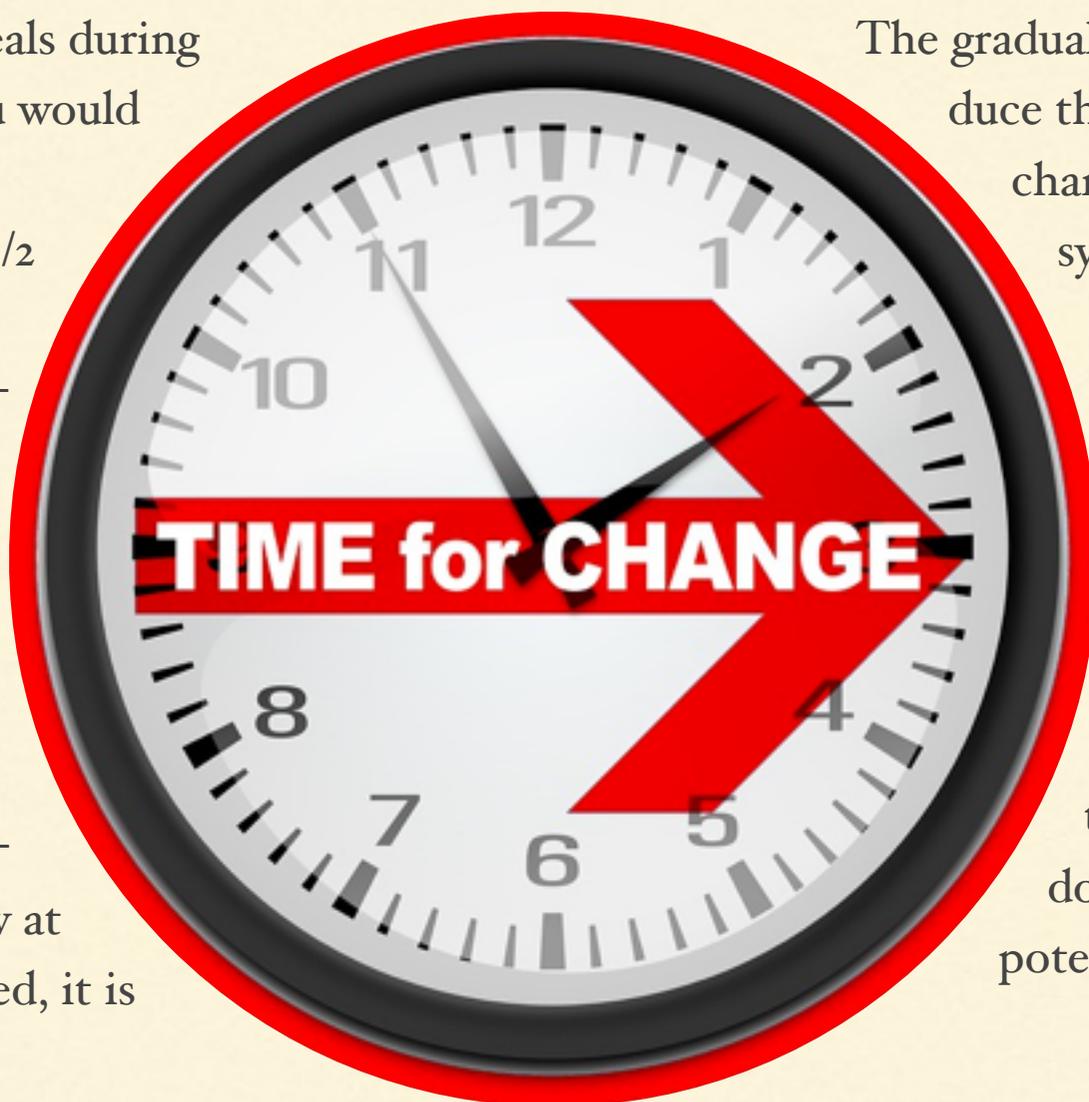
This gradual process may seem slow at first, but be assured, it is

for the best. A dog's diet is not like a human's diet. People vary their diet on a daily basis. Sometimes we stir things up from meal to meal. Your dog's diet is best when it is consistent. Do not change brands or feeding methods frequently.

Once you find a dog diet that works well to promote the health of your pet, it is best to stick with it. In fact, you should allow several weeks, and preferably months, on a new diet before assessing the results. This is true unless otherwise directed by your vet. Some instances may arise when this is not a plausible plan.

Your vet can best educate you on when and why to switch your dog's diet. Unless otherwise directed, proper method for changing your dog's diet takes time.

The gradual change will reduce the stress and change to your dog's system and digestive tract. Whenever a diet is working well for your dog, it is best to leave your dog's diet alone. Consistency is helpful to maintain your dog's ultimate health potential.





20

How Treats & Snacks Affect Your Dog's Diet

You know the importance of choosing a healthy diet for your pet. You have taken the time and effort to consult with the veterinarian about a healthy and nutritious dog food. Whether you choose dried food, canned dog food, or make it from scratch, you may be overlooking something extremely important in your dog's diet.

Do you occasionally give your best friend a treat from the table or a rawhide to chew? These treats may seem like a simple snack or tidbit, but they really can add up. You may not have considered it before, but any and all treats that you give your pet are a part of your dog's diet. The question now becomes, how significant are treats in your dog's diet? Do you give your dog a treat once a day in the evening while watching television, or do you scatter Milk Bones throughout the day for each cute look or adorable pet trick?

The type of treats you give your dog also makes a difference in your dog's diet. Do you pass out cookies and scraps from dinner, or maybe a piece of popcorn or two? Junk food for

you becomes junk food for your pet. In fact, some healthy foods for you are not good for your dog. Raisins are a healthy snack for humans to munch on between meals, but they can be detrimental to the health of your dog. Keep your dog's diet healthy even during snack time with treats.

Rawhides are an area of controversy. Some pet owners and vets feel they do not make a good treat for your pet. Others feel that rawhides provide entertainment and good dental health for your dog. Find out what your vet recommends. If you decide to allow rawhides in your dog's diet, avoid them in excess. They can soften stools and provide many empty calories.

Your dog views a treat as just that, a special treat between meals. For the most part, dog's don't care if you give them a baby carrot, rawhide chew, or Milk Bone. They are happy to get the snack. If you find you provide numerous treats during the course of the day, you may need to modify your dog's diet to maintain a healthy weight. Giving your pet a whole

bunch of treats sure is fun for both you and your dog, but can lead to serious health troubles.

Consider altering your dog's diet by giving him or her less treats. Instead of a large Milk Bone, for example, break the treat into several smaller pieces. This will have your dog eating less between meals.

Ice cubes, small bits of apple, and baby carrots are terrific healthy treat ideas to consider when choosing a healthy diet for your dog. Such treats make little difference overall and make monitoring your dog's daily intake much easier for you. This way, you can focus solely on the food consumed during mealtime. A dog's diet needs to be

healthy to ensure a long and happy life for your pet.





21

Dog Food Influences Your Canine's Canines

Your dog is your very best friend. Every time you walk through the door your pooch is so happy to see you that he wags his tail and practically smiles at you. How can you show your pet how much they mean to you? If you want to show your dog how much you love him back, take care of that beautiful smile! Did you know that your dog's diet has a big influence on their dental health?

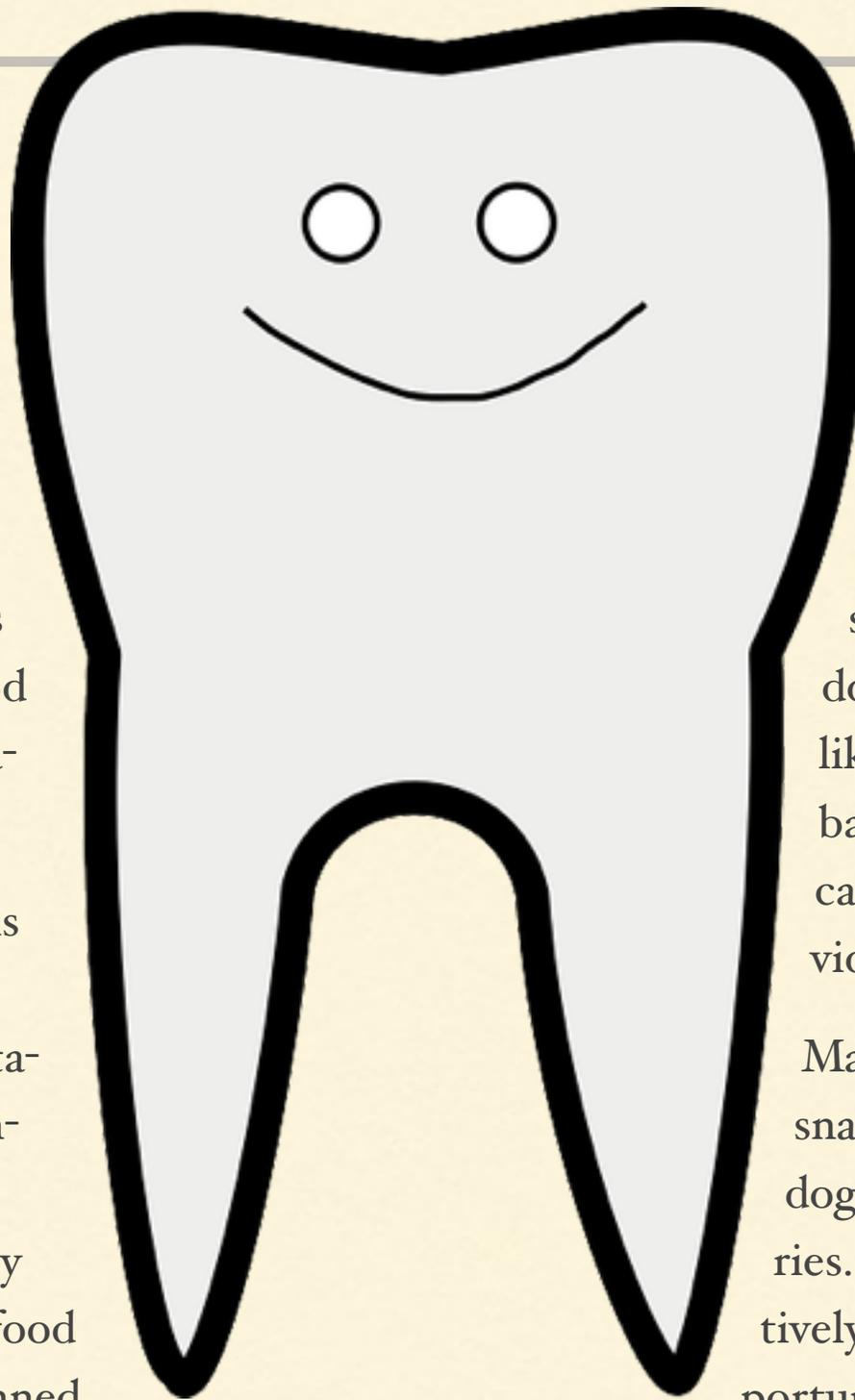
Humans need to brush and floss their teeth regularly to keep their teeth, tongue, and gums in healthy condition. Research has recently shown a link between good oral health in humans and a lower risk of heart disease. If good oral health can have such a profound affect on people, then it only makes sense to consider the impact it can have on dogs.

Therefore, it is important to brush your dog's teeth frequently to keep plaque and tartar from becoming an issue. Even wiping his gums with a clean, damp cloth can be beneficial.

Your dog's diet plays a major role. Do you typically feed your dog canned or dry dog food? What kind of treats and toys do you provide for your pet? All of these things can affect the likelihood of trouble with your canine's canines.

When your dog's diet is nutritionally balanced, containing essential vitamins, nutrients, and enzymes, your pet's oral health will be at its very best. Feeding dry dog food rather than a moist canned variety is best for your dog's teeth. Kibbles' hard surface rubs against the teeth to remove and reduce plaque. The simple act of softening the dry dog food with water or gravy eliminates this advantage from dry dog food.

The treats you give your pet are part of your dog's diet just like snacks are part of a person's diet. It is easy to overlook the treats you give your dog, and you should not. Carefully count and consider any food your dog will consume, including punctual snacks!



Do you give your dog bones, rawhides, jerky treats, or dog biscuits? Maybe your pet prefers greenies or corn starch chews.

You may not have considered it, but giving dogs a rawhide chew is like giving them candy bars. Rawhides contain calories and are often provided between meals.

Many of the treats and snacks you give in your dog are empty wasted calories. Some treats, alternatively, provide excellent opportunity to improve oral

health. Greenies, rawhides, bones, and hard dog biscuits all help to keep tartar away, you just need to pick the best quality! The softer snacks, such as jerky treats, do not provide much benefits. Healthy treat when given occasionally will prevent your dog from having bad breath.

Dry dog food is best whenever possible. Don't forget to buy treats that are healthy treats, and consciously monitor your dog's eating habits so you can improve your dog's overall dental health!



22

The Diet's Influence On The Dog's Outputs

If you are a computer guru, you may remember the term GIGO. This term stands for Garbage In. Garbage Out. So, what does this have to do with your dog's diet? Well, your dog may be no walking, wagging, and barking computer, but he or she works in the same way. What food goes into your pet will eventually come out in the end.

Your dog's diet will affect the outputs considerably. Other factors play a role such as illness, nerves, and the weather. You can tell a lot about the health of your hound by the outputs produced.

As any responsible pet owner knows, cleaning up after your pet is not the most pleasant job, but it is a necessary one. Being choosy and selective about your dog's diet will make cleaning up after your pet much easier.

When your dog is eating a diet high in fillers, your pet will show it. The excrement will be large in size and often runny and hard to pick up. You may notice when you give your pet leftovers from the table, he or she is really happy, but you

aren't exactly smiling on the next trip around the block. The outputs of a pet eating an unhealthy diet is just plain messy, stinky, and large.

Even treats such as rawhide bones can change your dog's stool. Your dog's diet consists of everything your pet eats from treats to mealtime. Monitor how treats affect your dog's outputs to determine how healthy the snack really is for your pet.

If you choose to feed your dog a balanced diet that is high in quality, you will notice a particular difference in the outputs.

Cleanup may not be placed on the top of your things to-do list, but it will be much easier and more tolerable. When the dog's diet is healthy and nutritious, you will have less mess in the yard or kennel.

Dog handlers with service animals are educated about the importance of a healthy diet and outputs during training. It is important, for example, that a guide dog not have an accident while working. The public would not be highly tolerant of trouble in a restaurant or grocery store. Take a tip

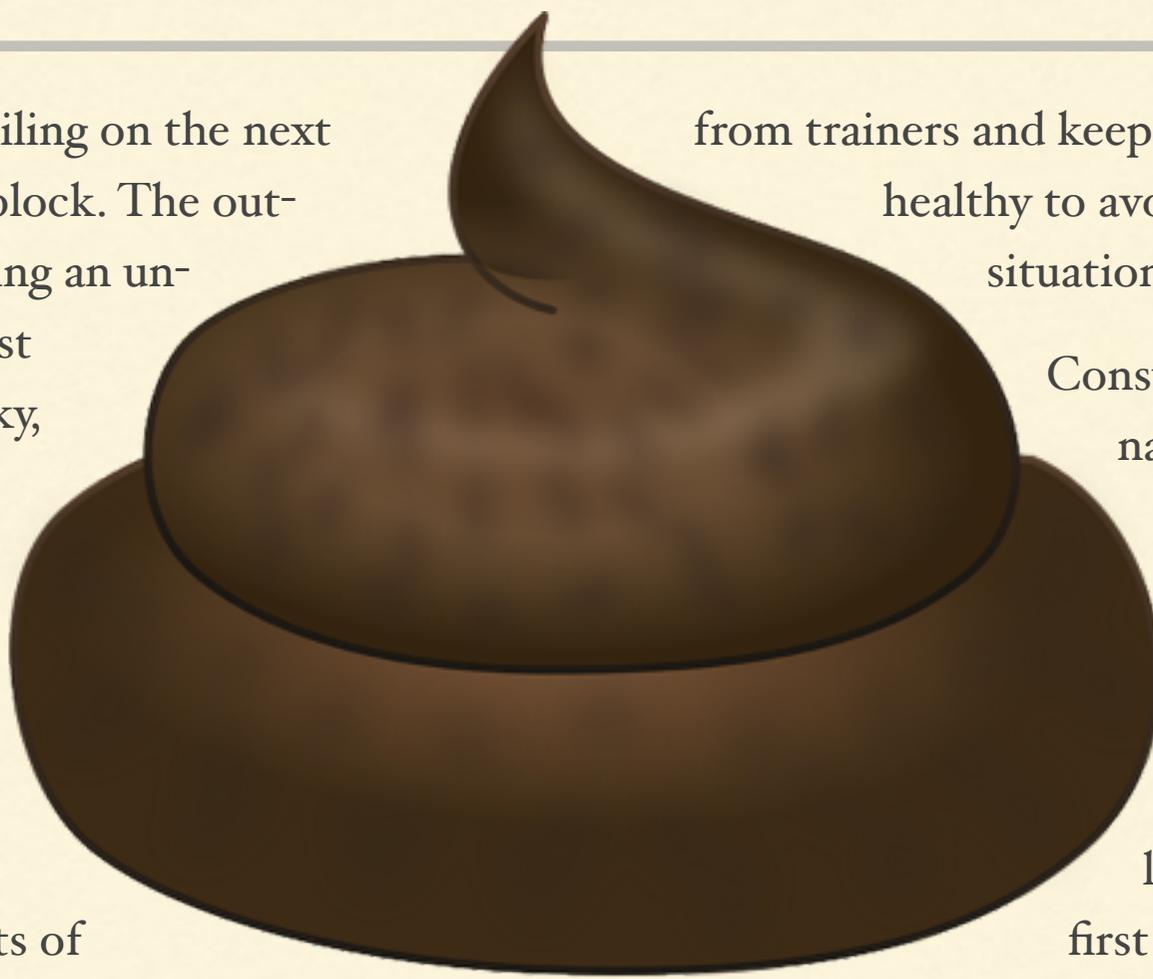
from trainers and keep your dog's diet healthy to avoid these messy situations.

Consult your veterinarian to decide what type of diet is best for your dog. Look for a dry dog food that lists meat as the first ingredient. This will help to reduce the

amount of fillers your pet will consume.

Feeding your pet on a schedule is important. When looking at your dog's diet, do not simply focus on what you are feeding your pet, but also focus on when you feed your dog. If your dog's diet includes consistent mealtimes, you will be better able to predict your dog's potty schedule. This can play a major role in effective housebreaking technique.

Helping your pet eat right is the first step to maintaining a healthy diet for your dog. Your dog's diet, when perfected, will keep things running smoothly. Minimize outputs and mess with nutritious, scheduled feeding. Beware of treats in your dog's diet. Knowing what goes into your pet will reduce the garbage coming out.





23

Homemade For Ill Dogs

Homemade diets are important when it comes down to feeding your beloved dog. Most of the time, commercial diets consist of food products that contain artificial coloring and flavoring agents that, with time and in the long run, may become harmful to your dog. Homemade dog food have the guarantee of freshness in the preparation unlike the ready-made wet and dry dog foods.

The preservatives added in manufactured dog food products may not be ideal to dogs from a health perspective.

In case of kidney disease, homemade dog food may be made with ground beef, slices of bread, calcium carbonate, boiled eggs, etc. The purpose is to have a restricted protein supply in the meals prepared but with a much higher quality. Water is added in sufficient quantities to help the metabolism and the whole digestion process.

The dog may have allergic symptoms like severe itching, which may not get corrected by different kinds of medications employed over a period of time. Such cases may get easily treated once your dog's food changes from commercial types of food to the manned prepared dog meals.



24

Make a Natural Dog Diet At Home

Who knows what is really in that bag of kibble at the grocery store? You have turned over the package and read the ingredients, but still it seems baffling. What do all of those long, scientific words really mean? The only way to really know what your dog's diet consists of is by making it yourself at home.

Is it difficult to make a natural diet from home for your dog? No, a little bit of time and knowledge will leave your dog's diet healthy and nourishing. And, the best part, you will know what your best friend is eating.

Creating a healthy diet for your dog at home will allow you the opportunity to take charge of your pet's health. Many options are available for you when selecting the specific amount and ingredients for your dog's diet. Always talk to your veterinarian about what to feed your pet. Your vet will help you to decide what products and foods are best to avoid and include in your natural dog diet. Also, they can educate you about any supplements that may be a good addition to your dog's diet to maximize health potential.

You may consider the raw diet for your pet. This dog diet consists of raw meat, vegetable juices, and grains. The philosophy behind this dog diet is to return to the diet nature intended. Getting your dog's diet back to the basics will help to encourage good health.

An organic dog diet is easily achieved at home with the purchase of organic meats, vegetables, and grains. If you have access to home grown organic goods in your local area, this may be the best option for your pet. If you have the time and space, consider growing your own organic vegetables for use in your dog's diet. What better way to keep your dog's diet on track?

So, you have decided to go natural? Good choice. Now that you have turned away from the processed food, what options are available for treats? You can make your own natural dog treats at home. Simply give your dog a baby carrot or piece of ap-

ple as a natural treat. Dogs love ice cubes as a snack. This will not alter his diet at all.

The dog's diet can include homemade treats such as frozen vegetable juice or dog biscuits made from organic ingredients. Do remember to subtract the amount of treats from the daily regimen at mealtime to keep the diet balanced properly. For instance, if the dog's diet typically includes five baby carrots a day, you may want to subtract this from the meal and use them throughout the day as treats.

Take control over your pet's health by making your dog's diet at home. Avoid processed food that is not as healthy for your pet. Many natural diet options are out there. Speak to your vet about which natural dog diet is best for you and your pet. When the quality of your pet's health is important, a natural diet for your dog is the best way to go.



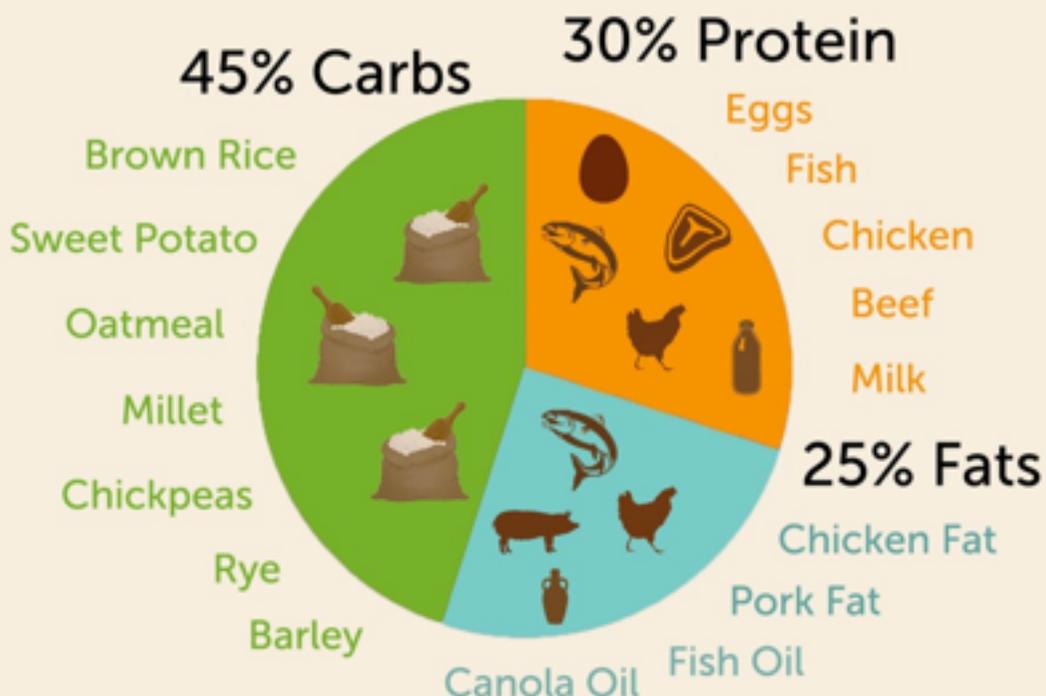
Useful Infographic

Use this infographic as a simple guide for when you prepare your dog's meals at home, in your own kitchen. If you hesitate on quantities of meat, veggies and carbs, you won't anymore.

Credits: WagWell.com

HOMEMADE DOG FOOD Nutrition Guide

Core Nutrients



Supplements

Essential



Vitamins
Whole food preparation
Made for pets



Bone Meal
Calcium + Phosphorous

Health Boosters



Kelp



Steamed
Veggies

Probiotics +
Enzymes



Fish Oil



Calorie Requirements

Weight in lbs	Calories/Day	Weight in lbs	Calories/Day
5	185-235	30	700-900
10	305-390	40	860-1100
15	415-530	50	1020-1300
20	515-650	65	1240-1600
25	600-780	80	1450-1870

Wagwell

www.wagwellpets.com



25

The Raw Dog Diet

Have you ever wondered why dog food comes in this huge bag filled with tiny kibbles of compressed unknown ingredients? Much of what goes into dog food is not high-quality in nature. Blood meal, bone meal, and fat frequently come from animal carcasses containing potentially harmful drugs or disease. Is it time to consider something better for your dog's diet?

Before marketing and advertisers took over the world of big business, what did dog's eat? We take a look at how dog's in the wild gain adequate nutrition. A wolf, for example, survives from a kill. The contents of the animals stomach are eaten first. Doing this, the wolf takes in grains and vegetables, as well as, enzymes needed for good nutrition. Next, the wolf devours the meat and some bones. Protein and calcium have now been added to the diet. This natural diet in the wilderness has been effective in maintaining quality health over the years. Unlike the domesticated dogs of today, such animals generally have excellent immune systems.

When your dog's diet consists primarily of unhealthy animals, can you not assume that your dog will become unhealthy, as well? Today, veterinarians have seen more health problems with dogs than ever before.

The natural raw diet feeds the immune system of your pet. Your dog's



diet will contain natural foods that provide the body what it needs to repair itself and perform at its best.

The raw diet is prepared one time a day. It is not complicated and well worth the time and effort to ensure the excellent health of your dog. Always consult your vet before altering your dog's diet. The raw dog diet has helped many dog's combat health issues such as arthritis, skin problems, and weight trouble.

Ingredients of the raw diet include meat, veggies, and grains. Approximately half of the diet is meat. Vegetables, fruit, and grain cover the rest.

When preparing the dog's diet, feed the dog about the same amount of the raw dog diet as you would kibble. This is a good starting point. From here, you can adjust the diet as necessary to meet your dog's specific needs.

Contact a local butcher to purchase ground turkey, for example. Each day prepare a bowl of 50% raw ground turkey with some wet oats. Juice some vegetables such as carrots and swiss chard and add the juice to the mix.

Juicing the vegetables helps to digest the enzymes for your pet. This is similar to the wolf consuming the contents from a stomach. Your dog's diet will need a variety of

different vegetables daily to maximize the potential for best vitamins and nutrients.

Carrots should always be the base and alter other veggies daily. The carrots will regularly supply potassium, calcium, vitamin A, B, C, D, and E. Greens offer vitamin A, C, and chlorophyll. Apples are good for vitamin C.

Certain veggies have healing properties. Kale, for instance, helps to remedy digestive disorders. Watercress and mustard greens help to cleanse the intestines. Parsley helps the metabolism and thyroid. Celery has numerous advantages. It helps with chemical imbalances, blood flow, and is a natural diuretic. Beets are good for the blood. They offer copper and manganese.

Some foods to avoid include broccoli, cabbage, and turnips. These create intestinal gas. Cucumbers, onions, and potatoes do not digest well in a dog's diet.

Flaxseed is a fabulous addition to the raw diet to encourage healthy joints and coat. The omega 6 and 3 fatty acids help with such conditions.

The raw diet for your dog can combat several health issues. The natural diet allows your dog to eat what nature intended. You know what foods are in your dog's diet. The raw diet is high in quality and healthy for your pet.



26

The BARF Diet

Alas, more and more dog owners put the responsibility of feeding their dogs in the hands of corporate animal-feed manufacturers. And the reasons are simple to fathom: it's easy, clean and it's just what everybody else does. People trust their manufacturers, their vets and their breeders.

These days the amount of diseases are increasing dramatically. Cancer, allergies, pancreatitis, skin problems and many other diseases are very uncommon in dogs. It's proven that a big part of these increasing health issues are food related. And this is where the BARF diet has a role to play.

BARF, or *Biologically Appropriate Raw Food*, imitates the diet of a wild dog, a wolf and other carnivores. The whole diet is fed raw (as wolves didn't have hob and pan to cook their rice in!) As well as prey, the wolf also eats fruit, herbs, berries, grasses, roots, insects, and also the insides of herbivores. Mostly however, the wolf eats whole animals. Every part of an animal will be eaten except the larger bones, a large part of the skin and coat and a portion of the gastrointestinal contents.

A wolf gets all the vital nutrients like protein, fat, minerals, vitamins, enzymes and fibre by eating a whole animal. By biting through flesh and bone the teeth of a carnivore will be strong and clean. This also actually prevents their breath from smelling bad.

Dry food on the other hand contains such things as “animal by-products”, “poultry meal”, “dry-snip”, “fish meal” or “bone meal” and so on. The list unfortunately is very long. The chemicals, preservatives and flavor enhancers are all factors which allegedly increase illnesses. Apart from these very unnecessary and dangerous ingredients it also contains a large amount of carbohydrates (usually 60-90%). A dog doesn't need carbohydrates – it is part of the reason why 68% of dogs in the UK are overweight. Dogs look unhealthy, suffer hair loss, seem hungry all the time and have bad breath and low energy. All these symptoms are directly related to bad feeding.

The change to a raw diet seems more complicated than it actually is. Many people are worried about feeding the right amount of meat, bone, offal and vegetable. But the reality is a lot easier than most people think. There are simple guidelines to creating a food plan and once put together it's very easy to follow (there are many forums and pages online about this). Every

dog is different. The amount of exercise, the size of the dog, and the level of activity all vary and so the menu plan needs to be tailored for each dog. There are many positive attributes to the plan:

- You know EXACTLY what your dog eats as you put it together freshly every day
- A lot of products we already have in the fridge can be used even if they have recently passed their sell by date or have gone “off”
- Many butchers would discard the stuff we can feed our dogs which also makes feeding our dogs cheap, often cheaper than the dry food (if vet bills are included then it's definitely a lot cheaper!)

It is our responsibility as dog owners to care for our animals. This is why feeding has to involve more than going to the supermarket to buy a bag of food without reading the ingredients. How can a simple “guideline” on a dry food bag tell you the amount your dog needs? Your dog may be the exact same breed and age as the dog next door who never gets exercised. You, a responsible owner, may take your dog out 3 times a day and let it fetch a ball until it's tired while the neighbor's dog is only let out in the garden now and again. How can these dogs need the same amount of food? Simple questions like this switch the light on and make you realise that this is just another way of marketing.



27

Vegetarian Dog Diet

You have recently welcomed a furry companion into your home. Your four-legged friend has adopted you as her own. Now that you have become a true pet owner, you need to decide what to feed your pet. You eat a vegetarian diet, so you would like your new dog to follow these same guidelines. Is a vegetarian diet right for your dog?

Let's take a look at what dogs eat in the wild. A wolf or stray dog typically will kill an animal or scavenge until she finds an acceptable fare. In the wild, a dog will consume grains and vegetables, but the dog's diet also contains meat.

Taking a look at your pet's teeth, you may notice that grinding and tearing surfaces are present. This is one indication that dogs are omnivorous. This means that dogs are biological meat and plant eaters. Straying from nature can be a difficult task, but may not be impossible.

It can be possible to feed your dog solely vegetarian meals, but this type of diet is not typically



recommended for your pet. Your dog's diet must be well balanced and nutritious to support good health and optimal body function. A completely vegetarian lifestyle may be perfect for you, but difficult to achieve for your dog.

A healthy diet should allow your pet to thrive not simply survive. A vegetarian dog diet will, too frequently, result in a dog who shows signs and indications of a lesser quality of health than a dog fed a well balanced diet contain animal products.

Your dog's body requires high amounts of protein. Protein is frequently provided through animal tissue and bones in the wild, as well as, in most varieties of manufactured dog diets.

Amino acids are also key to your dog's health. Only 12 of the 22 essential amino acids can be produced by your dog's body. The other 10 amino acids must be provided to your pet through your dog's diet. A vegetarian dog diet has trouble meeting the requirements to allow your dog to thrive under these circumstances.

As with any change you would make to your own diet, you would want to consult your physician for medical advice. Talk to a profes-

sional about the advantages and disadvantages of feeding a vegetarian dog diet to your pet. Depending on your specific plan, he or she may be able to recommend some supplements to add to the prospective vegetarian diet that will create a healthy balance for your new furry friend. If supplements are not available to create the healthy and balanced diet your dog deserves, then the two of you can discuss other options to determine a dog diet that works well for your pet and satisfies your lifestyle.

A vegetarian dog diet goes against nature so to speak and is typically not recommended for dogs. Talking your situation over with a veterinarian will help you to determine the best way to achieve your dietary goals for your pet. Your dog's diet must be well balanced and nutritious to provide essential nutrients and amino acids to your furry friend. Supplementation may help you to achieve your goal. Keep in mind that you and your vet both want what is best for your pet and you will undoubtedly determine a dog diet that works for your family.





28

The Green Bean Dog Diet

For some time, people have tossed around the idea of the green bean diet for dogs. You may have heard of this and considered trying it. Let's look at the green bean dog diet and discuss some of the pros and cons.

If you choose to feed your dog the green bean diet, you must know that you cannot exclusively feed your pet green beans. Only supplying your dog with this green vegetable will not be a healthy choice for your dog's diet. Pet owners will need to find a balance between dog food, for example, and green beans that will produce the desired results.

The green bean dog diet involves standard kibble for your pet mixed with a portion of green beans. The green beans are a healthy way to keep your dog full between meals. For example, your lab may only need two cups of high-quality dog food per day to maintain a healthy weight, but he is always scrounging around and hungry. Adding some green beans to the food at meal time will help your dog's diet stay on track and keep your dog feeling full and happy.

Should all dogs be eating the green bean diet? Not all dog's need to have green beans added to their meals. Typically, the green bean dog diet is recommended for dogs who need to lose weight. After the initial weight loss, many pet owners continue to follow the green bean dog diet to help maintain a healthy weight for their pet.

Both dogs and owners are often pleased with the results of the green bean dog diet. Pet owners feel good about supporting the health of their dog. Also, it is comforting for us humans to see a sizable helping for our pet. Looking into the dog dish and seeing a few sparse kibbles totaling a half cup does not appear as generous as that same amount of kibble surrounded by a healthy helping of fancy cut green beans.

It is rare that your dog will turn his or her nose up at the green beans. Your dog's diet is healthy and appreciated. Dogs feel fuller and will respond with a more pleasant attitude and less scrounging around in search of some grub.

One negative factor to consider when changing your dog's diet over to the green bean diet, is the added fiber. Some dog's systems react to this, so monitor your pet's outputs. Begin adding the green beans slowly and gradually increase. Some pet owners find it beneficial to only add the green beans to the dog's diet at one spe-

cific time during the day to keep the dog's potty schedule in order.

If you decide to turn your dog's diet over to the green bean dog diet, there are a few simple tips to keep in mind. You won't be feeding your dog several cans of green beans a day. Purchase a resealable lid to cover the open can of green beans for easier storage in the fridge between meals. Measure the amount of green beans in your dog's diet just as you would measure kibble or treats.

If you notice the store has green beans on sale, by all means, purchase a few cans ahead and stock up. Although green beans are not particularly expensive, it never hurts to save some cash.

Whenever possible, purchase canned green beans with no added salt. This is a healthy option for your dog's diet, typically at no additional cost to you.

The green bean dog diet can have many advantages. Monitor your dog's intake to prevent unpredictable outputs. The green bean dog diet helps to properly lose and maintain weight while keeping you and your pet happy.





29

Dogs Need Essential Fatty Acids

Does your pet's skin and coat look shiny and healthy, or is your dog's fur lacking the silky appearance we all prefer? This could indicate the need for more fatty acids in your dog's diet.

A dog's diet affects all aspects of his body including the skin and coat. If your dog's diet contains adequate amounts of fatty acids, his coat and skin should appear healthy. Fatty acids will prevent trouble with dry skin and dandruff, for example. A dull coat should raise your attention and may indicate a need for fatty acids supplements.

Studies indicate that essential fatty acids, called EFAs, contribute to healthy skin and coat, as well as general health. Omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids, for instance, can play a critical role in your dog's overall well being.

On the flip side, do not assume that adding fatty acid supplements to your dog's diet is always a good idea. If your dog's coat is in good condition, adding more EFAs will not necessarily improve anything further. The fatty acid supple-

ments, such as omega 3 and 6, are only for dogs with diagnosed skin problems.

Supplementing your dog's diet may or may not be necessary. The only sure way to decide if your dog's diet needs to be complemented is to speak to your vet. Avoid medicating your dog without advice from a professional because your dog's diet must stay balanced in terms of nutrients. Plus, consulting your vet before adding these to your dog's diet lets you understand the best form of EFAs and the appropriate dose to add.

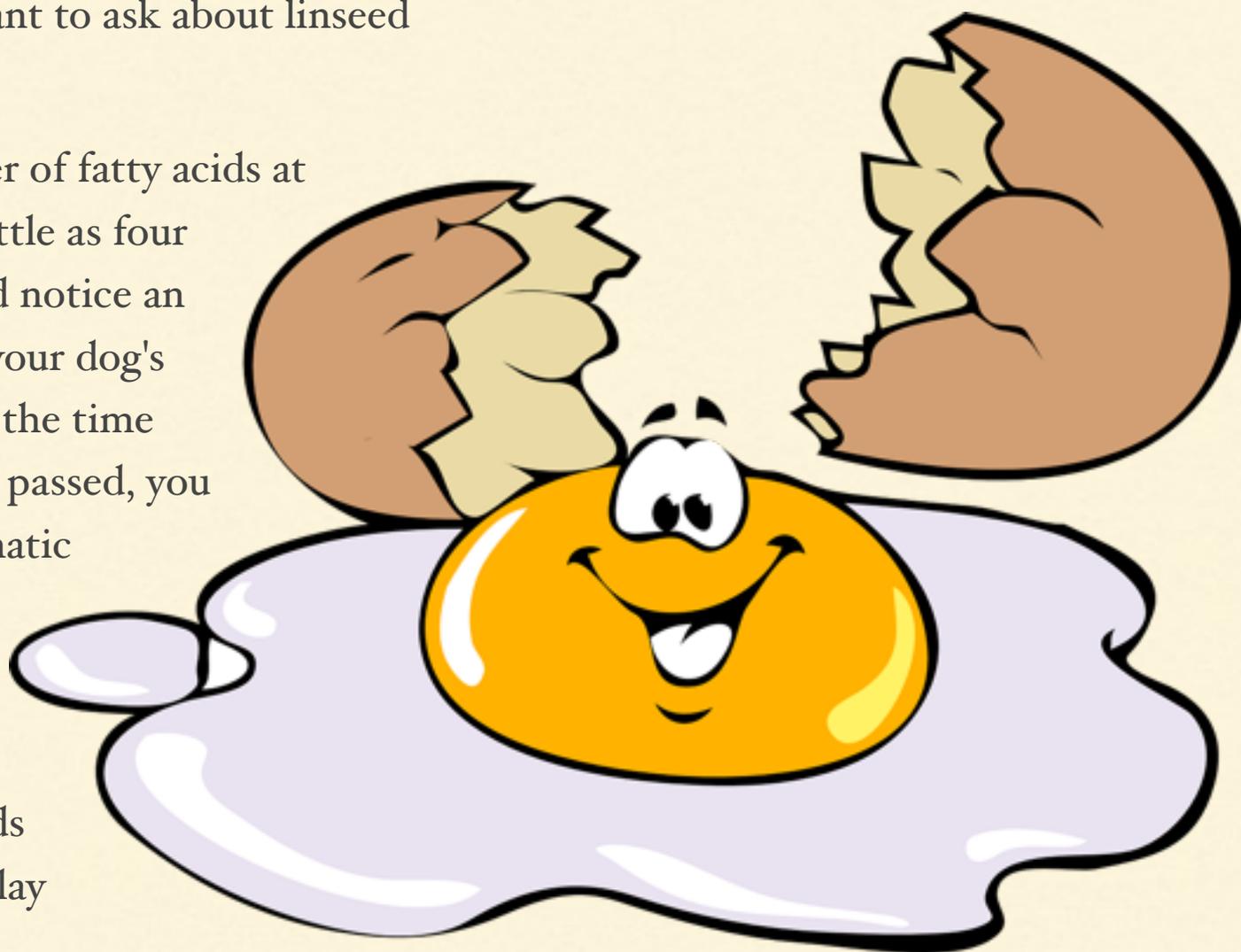
Fatty acids are not produced by your dog's body. For this reason, you must provide EFAs through alimentation. If your vet recommends additional supplements of fatty acids, you may want to ask about linseed or sunflower oil.

Watch the wonder of fatty acids at work, within as little as four weeks, you should notice an improvement in your dog's coat and skin. By the time seven weeks have passed, you will notice a dramatic change in your pet's health.

High levels of omega 3 fatty acids are thought to delay

some forms of cancer. Cardiovascular health and joint health will improve, as well, with higher levels of omega 3 in your dog's diet.

Typically, omega 6 fatty acids are present in manufactured dog food at adequate levels. Supplementing omega 3 will help to improve the ratio and make the difference for your pet. Fish and flax seed are excellent sources of omega 3 fatty acids. Again, be cautious and ask a professional for advice before supplementing with fish as some forms of fish may not be safe.





30

Do Dogs Need Extra Vitamins?

A healthy, balanced diet is essential for a long and happy life with your pet. How do you know if you need to add supplements to your dog's diet? What types of supplements should you add to your dog's diet?

In most cases, your dog's diet will not need to be supplemented. Assuming you feed your pet a diet recommended by your vet, and formulated by a reputable dog food brand, your dog's meals are already designed to provide a healthy balance and ensure excellent well-being for your dog.

Occasionally, some low-quality dog foods will increase the need for extra supplementation because of their lack of nutritional value. Your vet may recommend that you give your pooch's diet a little boost. Consider supplementing your dog's diet with a hard boiled egg a couple of days per week. This simple step will add extra amounts of vitamins A and D. Such vitamins are completely natural, cost-effective and they will help to maintain good bone structure and healthy eyes.

If you have decided to change your dog's diet by adopting a homemade diet, raw feeding diet, or just want to make sure your dog's food is at its best, you will want to know about the benefits of other supplements.

Your dog's diet can be supplemented with whole grains, green vegetables, and nuts. These will increase the intake of vitamin B as well as beans, yeast, and liver. Your dog needs vitamin B to support a healthy skin and strong muscles.

To avoid immune system deficiencies, supplement your dog's diet with additional vitamin E. Good sources of vitamin E can be found in wheat germ, bran, and vegetable oil.

Vitamin K is another important nutrient for dogs. Liver, fish, leafy greens, and seeds can provide vitamin K to your pet. This vitamin will help enhance his blood clotting abilities.

Glucosamine is a great supplement in your dog's diet. Glucosamine has been proven to improve joint health and avoid arthritis in dogs.

However, the use of supple-

ments can be risky if not done correctly. You may think you are providing your pet excellent vitamins and low calories by tossing your dog a few grapes or raisins. Some dogs have been known to die from renal failure due to consuming such fruit. Always seek advice from a professional before supplementing or changing your dog's diet in any way just to be on the safe side.

Calcium supplements can be dangerous when used excessively. Although calcium is good in moderation to form strong, healthy bones, too much calcium can create trouble. Large breed pups given too much calcium can grow large bones and lack the muscular strength needed to support such a heavy skeleton.

Always talk to your vet about the supplements you are considering.

Your vet can advise you on the utility and the appropriate amount for each supplement. Both you and your vet care for your dog and want the best.

Providing a healthy and nutritious diet should however save you from using any kind of supplementation!





31

Do Dogs Need Mineral Supplements?

Vitamin and mineral supplements are the most important components in any dog diet. If there is a balance in the vitamin and mineral supplements, then the animal will have a healthy life and hence, the immunity is not compromised in an unwanted way. This simply means that there the dog will be more disease resistance against various diseases.

Pet owners should know that vitamins A, D, E, and K are the fat-soluble vitamins and others are water-soluble vitamins. Vitamins like thiamine, pyridoxine and cyanocobalamin are important for the functions of nervous system. Deficiency of vitamin A leads to night blindness and skin lesions and deficiency of vitamin D leads to the softening and weakening of the bones.

These problems are many a time encountered by the dog owners. Among these, vitamin A toxicities may occur if you feed them in excessive amounts, like vitamin D. Hence, give emphasis on this while you are using these vitamins in the dogs. Cod liver oil from selected fishes has more vitamin A in them and are universally good feed for dogs.

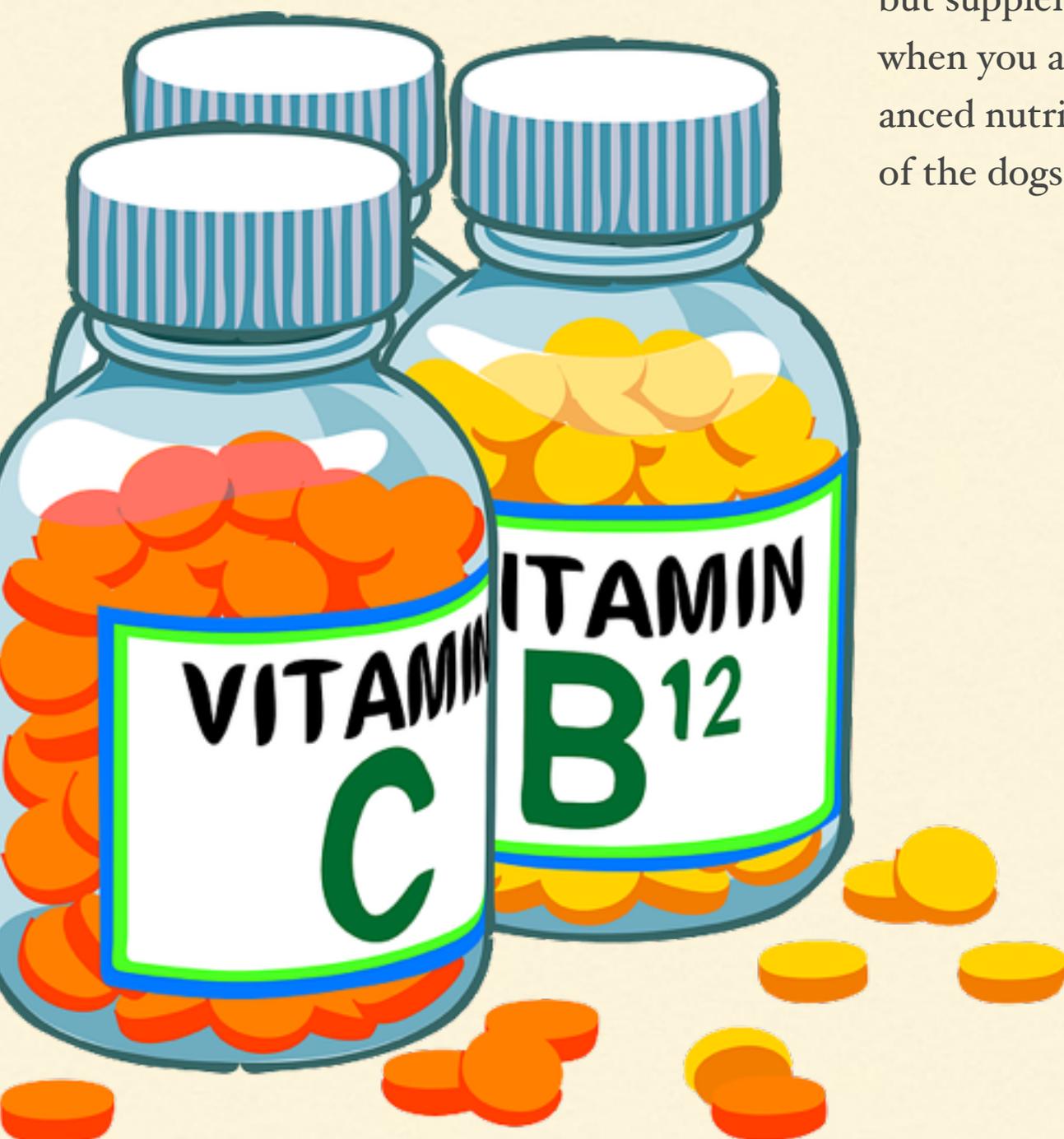
All dogs may not need supplements of minerals or vitamins to live well for the moment, but it is important for their future. If they become sick or aged or very young without proper feeding, supplementations are required for the upkeep of health status in them. However, one has to follow the instructions of veterinarian in this regard.

If the dogs are fed with fish in frozen conditions, then they may be suffering constantly from vitamin B₁ deficiency and hence, such dogs need to be given specifically B₁. Careless supplementations of min-

erals may lead to diseases and hence, veterinarians always need to be consulted on the supplementation of minerals or vitamins.

Minerals like calcium, magnesium, zinc, manganese, iron, copper etc. are given more emphasis in addition to sodium and potassium. Zinc is related to skin health and potassium is related to the muscle health and calcium with phosphorus is related to the bone health.

However, if you feed the dog with chicken, mutton or beef along with required vegetables, artificial supplementation of mineral or vitamin tablets may be highly reduced but supplements need to be thought of when you are not able to maintain a balanced nutrition as this happens with most of the dogs, due to multifaceted causes.





32

Fibers Are Awesome For Your Pooch!

We know the benefits of fiber in our own diet, but is there any benefit of fiber in a dog's diet? Fiber was considered as a filler in the past years, but today, the nutritional value of fiber has been commonly accepted.

What exactly is fiber? It is part of carbohydrates. Fiber is not highly digestible by the body and your dog can benefit from it when fed appropriate amounts. Just like humans, too much fiber in a diet can have negative effects on the digestive system. It is always important to maintain a healthy level of fiber to suit your dog's needs. Talk to your veterinarian about the benefits of fiber in your dog's diet and what amount would be suitable.

Too often, dogs tend to become slightly overweight and including fiber in your dog's diet is a great way to help him lose excess weight. Maintaining that fit and healthy weight is crucial to the longevity and quality of your dog's life. We know that fiber cannot accomplish weight loss on its own, but it can truly make a difference.

Fiber helps to keep your dog feeling full and content without large amounts of calories.

Owners who get their dogs reach the desired weight goal usually need to add fibers in the dog's diet to maintain a balanced food intake. By combining fibers with strict portion control, you will be able to create a dog diet that is satisfying for your companion's appetite, digestive system, and body.

Again, similar to humans, constipation does occur in pets. Fiber helps prevent constipation from occurring. As your dog ages, his or her diet should contain higher levels of fiber. Senior dogs tend to deal with issues of constipation more frequently than their younger counterparts. For this reason, you should add more fiber in your senior dog's diet.

How does fiber help keep things moving? Fiber absorbs water. With the absorption of water in the fiber, the food in the intestine takes more space. This is what causes the movement along the intestinal tract. The movement through the bowel becomes more normalized and regular.

Healthy amounts of fiber in your dog's diet will contribute to fecal consistency. You will know when your pet is getting the proper amount of fiber when your dog re-

lieves himself regularly. Too much fiber in your dog's diet will result in loose and messy stools.

Some studies indicate that a slight increase in fiber can assist in managing diabetes mellitus. Fiber helps controlling blood sugar levels by reducing the absorption of sugar from the intestine.

Take note that excessive amounts of fiber can have negative affects on your dog's health. For this reason, it is important to buy high-quality dog food from reputable companies to ensure a healthy diet. Beet pulp, soybean hulls, rice bran, apple and tomato pomace, and peanut hulls.

Grain such as oats and rice are also examples of good fiber.

Fiber does have benefits in your dog's diet when used in moderation. Talk to your vet about the best amount of fiber for your pooch.



33

Proteins & Kidney Failure

Early research indicated that higher levels of protein in your dog's diet would lead to kidney failure. Do you know if your dog's diet is safe? Are you killing your furry friend by providing too much protein in your dog's diet?

The studies that showed a relationship to high protein levels and kidney failure that sparked concerns about protein levels in dog's diets were not sound. The research was performed on rats, not dogs. Rats primarily eat plants as their natural diet. Naturally, rats biological makeup would indicate trouble digesting diets containing high levels of protein. The rats have difficulty excreting protein due to their specific dietary needs, not because the high protein diet causes kidney failure.

Still, where do we stand on protein and your dog's diet? Dogs are naturally omnivorous. In the wild, dog's would hunt or scavenge. The dog's diet would consist of both plants and animals. Naturally speaking, dogs are meat eaters, too. For this reason, a dog can easily tolerate a diet consisting of 30% protein or more.

When protein intake is reduced in a dog's diet, renal function does not improve. Renal lesions are not less likely to form when a dog is fed with a low-protein diet. It is not until a blood urea nitrogen, or BUN, test indicates a level of 75, that a reduction in protein intake be considered for your dog's diet.

If you have concerns about the amount of protein in your dog's diet, schedule an appointment to speak with a professional on the subject. Your trusted vet can advise you on the specifics in regards to your dog's diet.

It is a myth that dogs cannot properly digest high levels of protein in their diet. Kidney troubles do not result from high levels of protein in your dog's diet. Large amounts of protein can be safely digested in your dog's diet, especially when they come primarily from animal origins.

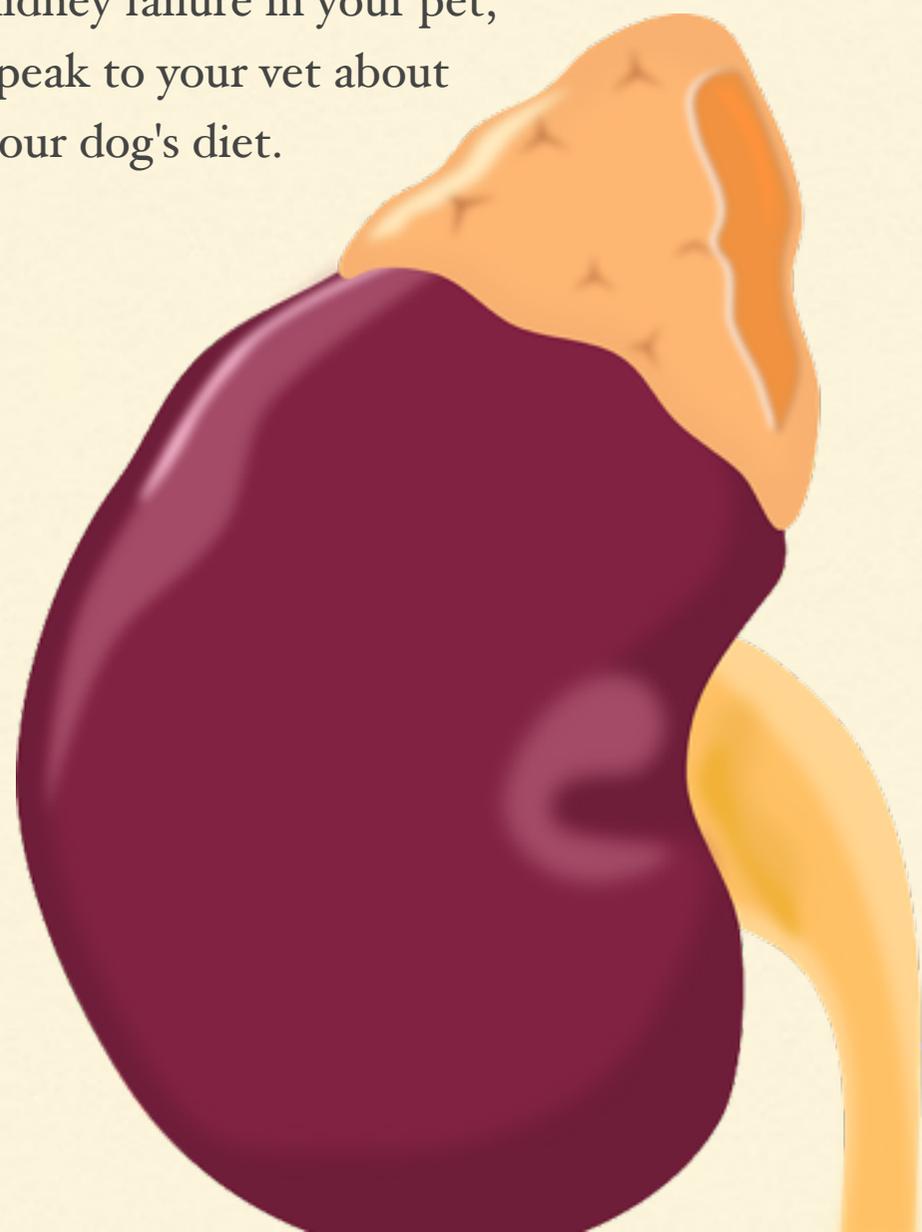
Ten amino acids must be provided in your dog's diet through protein. Only twelve of 22 amino acids can be manufactured in your dog's liver. For this reason, meat such as heart, spleen, and meat by-products all have a place in your dog's diet.

A high-quality dog food should contain meat as the first ingredient. This will provide the proper amount of protein for your dog's diet. You know you are on the right

track when you turn to nature for advice. Do you ever recall seeing a wild or stray dog happily grazing through the cornfield at mealtime?

Senior dogs should not be automatically placed on lower protein diets exclusively based on age. In fact, some older pets require a dog's diet higher in protein than during their younger adult stage. Unless medically indicated, provide your pet the benefit of quality protein in your dog's diet.

Feeding your dog protein should not cause you concern. You want what is best for your dog and nature tells you that protein will help your dog to thrive. If you have questions about the myth of protein and kidney failure in your pet, speak to your vet about your dog's diet.





34

The Role of Calcium in Your Dog's Diet

It is important for your dog's diet to contain all of the essential vitamins to ensure excellent health. One of the important nutrients in your dog's diet is calcium. When we think of calcium, strong teeth and bones come to mind. Your dog's diet should be rich in calcium to support healthy teeth and bones, but a delicate balance exist in relationship to calcium and your dog's diet.

It is possible to have too much or too little calcium in your dog's diet. When a dog's diet contains too little calcium, your dog may develop a condition called rickets. This condition creates soft bones that bend under the weight of your dog.

In contrast, too much calcium can create bone abnormalities, as well. Large breed dogs, for example, who are given too much calcium as puppies in their diet, will develop large bones that are low in density. Strength is a problem with such bones due to the large amount of calcium supplements.

When your dog's diet contains appropriate levels of calcium, such bone abnormalities occur infrequently. This is just one more reason to carefully select an appropriate diet for

your dog. Always consult with your veterinarian to determine the best amount of calcium in your dog's diet.

Calcium plays an important role in your dog's diet, but other vitamins and nutrients work hand in hand with calcium. Some minerals are interdependent. Calcium happens to be one of such mineral nutrients.

Calcium works together with phosphorus. A balance of the two nutrients calcium and phosphorus must exist in a healthy ratio to ensure a dog diet that will maximize the potential advantages for your pet. Studies involving animal nutrition show that a ratio of 1.0 to 2.0 parts calcium should be coupled with 1.0 part phosphorus. When calcium and phosphorus ratios vary greatly from this range, bone troubles result.

Dog diets consisting exclusively of meats, will not provide the proper amount of calcium and phosphorus to create healthy bones. Such a diet results in a ratio of about 1.0 part calcium to 18 parts phosphorus. The range of absorption is where the trouble begins.

Vitamin D is another nutrient that influences the absorption of calcium and phosphorus. If a dog's diet lacks the appropriate amount of vitamin D, the other nutrients will not provide all the benefits to

your pet. Excessive amounts of vitamin D can have toxic effects on your dog. It is imperative to maintain appropriate levels of vitamin D in your dog's diet. Again, feeding your dog food from a reputable company will allow you confidence in knowing that your dog's diet is healthy.

During pregnancy or when your dog is nursing, higher levels of calcium are important in your dog's diet. At this time, feed your pet extra amounts of a balanced dog food. You should not have to supplement your pet at this time.

Milk fever, or eclampsia, cannot be avoided with calcium supplements. Eclampsia is not a nutritional deficiency, but a metabolic condition that affects the dog after the pups have been born and begin nursing.

Avoid supplementing your dog's diet with calcium or other nutrients without specific discussion with your vet. When calcium, for example, is out of balance, health can truly be effected negatively. Feeding your dog a balanced diet is essential. Reputable dog food companies have researched animal nutrition to ensure the best possible health for your dog. Providing your dog's diet in a healthy, balanced formula may be the best way to take care of your pet.



35

Glucosamine in a Dog's Diet

As you stand in the store pondering over the plethora of varieties of dog food for your dog's diet, your mind can truly become overwhelmed. The endless string of ingredients listed on dog food labels simply complicate things even further. Who really knows what all of those ingredients really mean?

You sometimes see *glucosamine* on some of the dog food labels. That sounds a bit familiar. Haven't you heard of glucosamine in the news? What exactly is glucosamine and why should it be in your dog's diet?

Glucosamine has been beneficial to joint health in humans. Researches have also shown that glucosamine in dogs' diets can be beneficial to them.

Glucosamine is a dietary supplement that has been shown to encourage good joint health. This supplement helps to maintain good joint cartilage. Glucosamine is one of the key building blocks to produce joint lubricant. The joint lubricant helps to keep the joints moving and functioning

with ease. Glucosamine ensures your pet's joints work at their peak performance levels for the years to come.

How does glucosamine work to help your dog's joints? It hydrates and lubricates your pet's joints. The added hydration and lubrication will help to prevent arthritis in your dog. For this reason, glucosamine is a wonderful supplement. Pet owners of large breed dogs that are predisposed to having joint and hip problems should especially consider adding glucosamine to their dog's diet.

Shellfish is a good source of glucosamine. Another way to get glucosamine involves a unique process of fermenting corn. This method creates a vegetable-based glucosamine.

Glucosamine is typically safe as part of a healthy and balanced diet. Your pet will not suffer from side effects or interactions with medications when glucosamine is part of your dog's diet.

Today, many high-quality dog foods, manufactured by reputable companies, have already added glucosamine to their food products. Animal nutrition reports have discovered the benefits of glucosamine in your dog's diet and dog food producers have quickly responded. If you find that your dog's diet does not contain gluco-

samine, or you feel your pet could benefit from additional supplementation in the diet, you should have no problem locating glucosamine supplements for your pet.

Glucosamine supplements come in numerous forms. You can even give your dog a treat specially designed to supplement your dog with glucosamine. The tasty treat eliminates the trouble of dosing your dog with pills.

Of course, it is always best to talk to your vet about any change to your pooch's diet. He or she can give you advice about what supplements should be added to your dog's diet and in what quantity.



36

Dangerous Fruits & Vegetables For Dogs

Although recommended for us humans, various fruits and vegetables are dangerous for dogs in some cases. While most of them are fine in small quantities, the ones we listed have to be avoided for the risks they represent. Dangerous fruits and vegetables for dogs can represent a risk of hallucinations (mushrooms), choking (peaches), kidney failure (grapes), vomiting (potatoes) or even gastric intestinal distress (nuts.)

Here is a beautiful and clear infographic on what fruits and vegetables dogs should avoid...

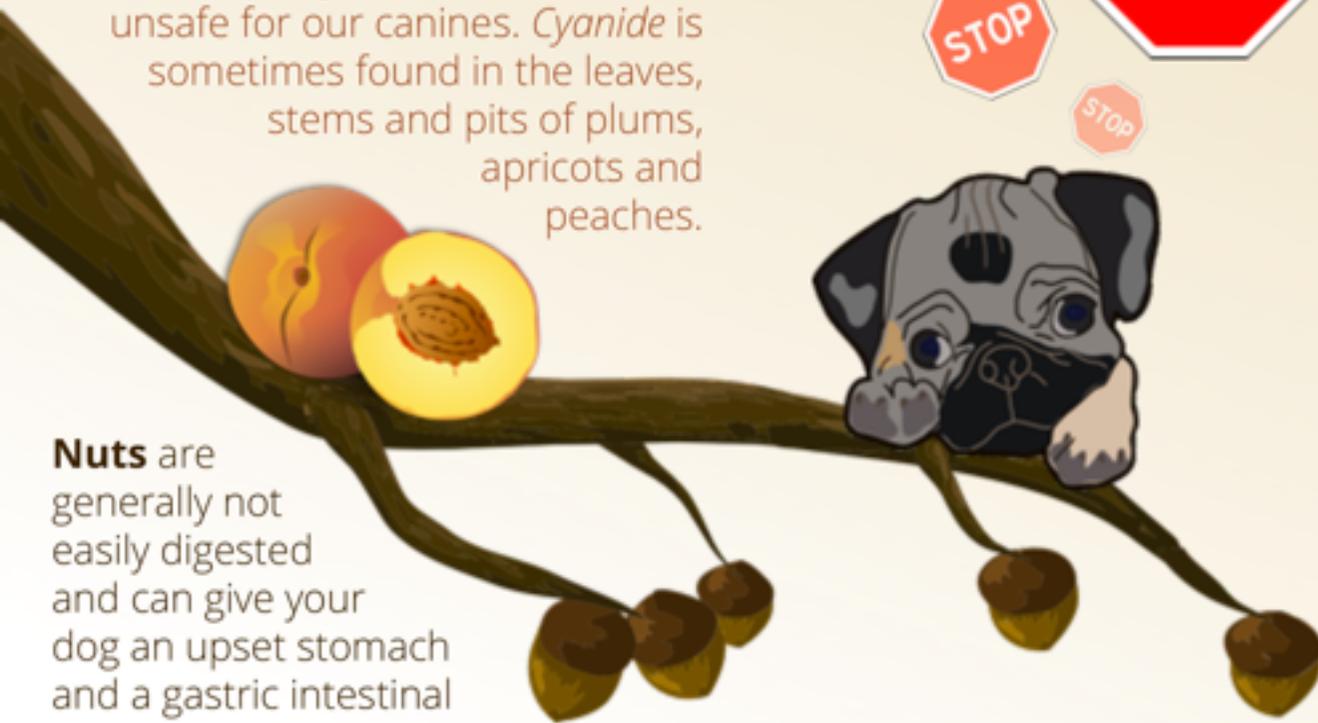
You are more than recommended to share this infographic on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and others! Dangerous fruits and vegetables can be found in any home, so make sure your friends do not let their dog eat dangerous or poisonous foods even if these foods are veggies and fruits!

DANGEROUS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR YOUR DOG!

by

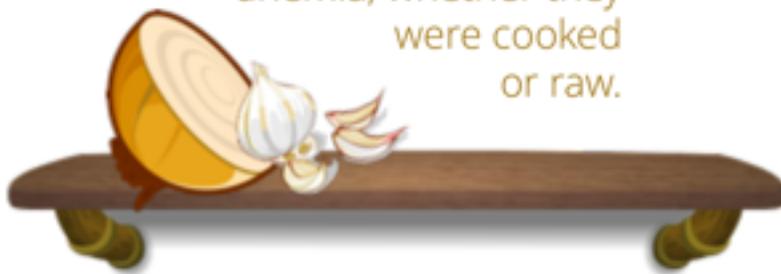
BreedingBusiness.com

Stone fruits, also called *drupes*, have choking pits that make them unsafe for our canines. *Cyanide* is sometimes found in the leaves, stems and pits of plums, apricots and peaches.



Nuts are generally not easily digested and can give your dog an upset stomach and a gastric intestinal distress.

Garlic, Onions & Chives all belong to the *Allium Genus* family and can damage your pet's red blood cells and result in a lethal anemia, whether they were cooked or raw.



Grapes and Raisins

may cause a sudden kidney failure in your dog. Neither should you use them as treats or diarrhea and vomiting may occur within 24-48 hours.



Avocados contain a toxin called *Persin* that most dog breeds are sound to. However, if you let your dog ingest too much of it, your dog may face vomiting and poisoning.



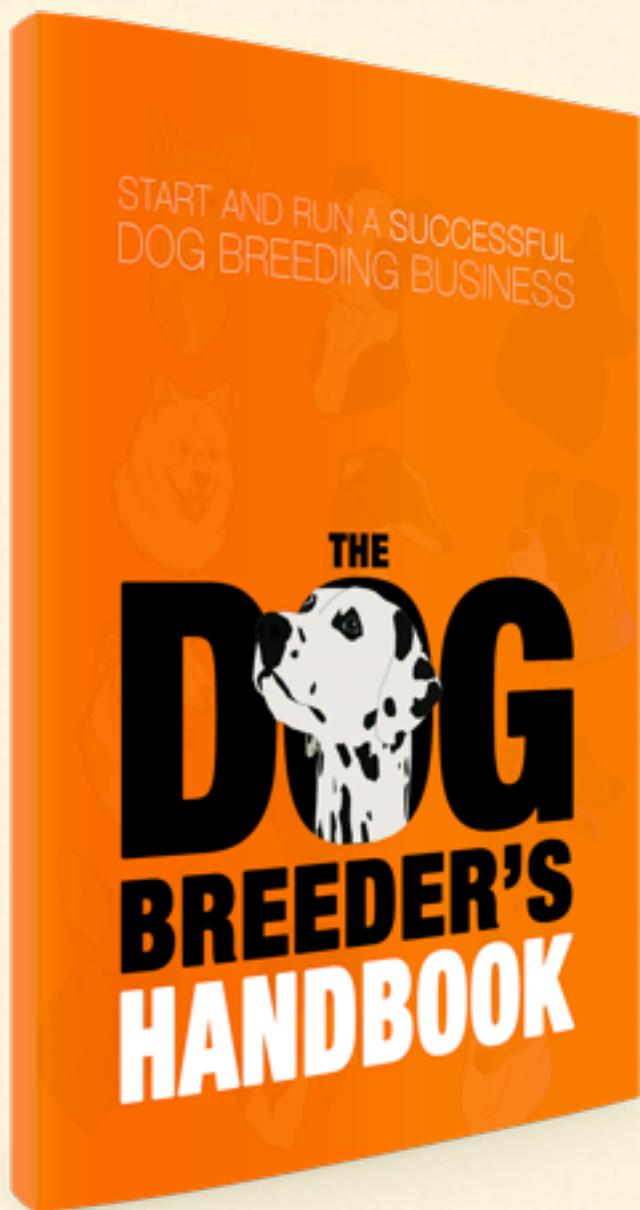
Mushrooms, although looking and smelling nice, can be extremely dangerous. Some mushrooms cause liver failures, hallucinations sudden death or in the best case, vomiting.



Raw Potatoes are dangerous for dogs if they ingest the sprouts or the green parts. Indeed, the *Solanin* found in raw potatoes causes diarrhea, drooling and vomiting.



Thank You!



The Dog Breeder's Handbook

<https://breedingbusiness.com/handbook/>

The definitive guide to develop and improve your dog breeding methods and sales strategy.

Turning a passion into a business does not mean becoming a profit-obsessed entrepreneur. It is exactly the opposite: we want you to start and run a responsible dog breeding activity that is profitable and successful for you to grow.

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