

Dog Nutrition

Understanding the ingredients that are placed in your pet's food is half the battle. We are here to help you better understand what you are buying for your buck, and to increase the energy and well being of your companion.

A dog with a shiny coat, clear eyes and a bright sense of personality is something to greatly appreciate what you are feeding him or her.

Many of the feeds that are placed out on the market contain many types of filler, by-products, and preservatives.

Check your feed labels, on the back and or side of the bag to see if your dog is getting a good source of nutrition or if you are just feeding something that is indigestible, full of chemicals and preservatives that could cause later problems in their life.

Pet food companies are required to list ingredients in the form that they are put into the bag of foods.

Good Source of Nutrition

Turkey
Chicken
Chicken Meal
Chicken Fat
Eggs
Lamb Meal
Fish Meal
Herring
Rice
Ground Rice
Ground Oats
Barley
Ground Barley
Ground Flaxseeds (Great for coat, skin & heart)
Apples
Carrots
Potatoes
Vitamin E, A, & D Supplements
Vitamin D3 & B12 Supplements
Manganese & Calcium
Folic Acid & Sunflower Oil (Great for coat, skin & heart)
Zink (Great for immune system)

By-Products & Fillers Not Good

Chicken by products (The feet, feathers, beaks, undeveloped eggs, and or organs of chickens.)
Chicken Liver (Contains High Levels of Toxins)
Dried Egg Product (Egg shells)
Beef Tallow (Low grade fat for flavoring, no nutrition)
Pork Fat (Not digestible)
Brewers Rice
Corn Gluten Meal
Corn Meal (Lower grade filler with no nutrition)
Corn Grits (Low grade filler with no nutritional value, cases many skin irritations)
Wheat Flour (No nutrition, common allergen)
Wheat Gluten (The starch from the wheat)
Soy (Common Allergen)
Preserved with BHA/BHT (This is a chemical preservative that has proven to cause many cancers in pets)

There are a lot of feeds out there that are almost made up totally of by-product and toxins. Those feeds pretty much have NO nutritional value.

Rely more upon ingredients than advertising and band wagon hype. This will insure that your pet is getting the most nutritional value for your buck.

There are some labels out there on your pet's food that say it's poultry by product (which doesn't specify what type of meat and is usually not well digestible for your pet.)

A healthy diet for your dog should be primarily meat-based to ensure optimal health. Dogs need protein and the preferred protein source is a clearly defined meat source. For example, a product that just lists “Meat and Bone Meal”, while meeting AAFCO standards, gives no indication of what animal is the source. Pork, chicken, turkey, lamb, or fish are the most commonly used meat proteins in better foods and one of these should be the top ingredient in your dog’s food.

Lamb meal, chicken meal, fish meal, and turkey meal are all excellent sources of protein. They are basically made from dehydrated chicken, lamb, fish, or turkey that is then ground to a pulp. This process extracts all of the water weight from these ingredients giving you the most concentrated sources of protein and nutrition.

While some dogs may suffer from allergic reactions to certain grains, most do very well with a proper mixture of meat and grain ingredients. While you should take care to avoid any food for your dog with grain as the first ingredient, grains such as corn, rice, oats, and barley can be a good source of nutrition. Grain should not be relied upon as the primary protein source for a dog but one or two high quality grains in the top five ingredients of a commercial food is acceptable.

Good quality commercial foods generally contain all the vitamins and minerals your dog needs. With this in mind, you should be wary of adding unnecessary supplements to your dog’s diet. This can be harmful to your dog so you should consult your veterinarian before considering any dietary supplement.

If you want a healthy dog, feed them something that sounds good enough for you to eat! Animals are just like humans and they gain a healthier coat and mind with a healthier lifestyle. Proper exercise and nutritional feed provides a better way to a greater lifestyle.