

The Range Animal Hospital

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Advanced
Diagnostics, Medicine
Surgery, Dentistry, &
Trauma Care
for
Large & Small Animals

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Dog Nutrition And Feeding

Re: What to feed your dog: a question proposed to me and a bunch of her friends via e-mail. Deb was a client until she moved to Alaska, and she remains my friend. This is my reply to her, her friends, and to those visitors to my home page that bothered to register. I hope that you enjoy my tongue-in-cheek humor, but the information given here is serious and accurate. While this is only my opinion, it is good advice!!

Deb and friends and visitors to my Home Page:

A VERY EASY question to answer.

Stick with a nationally advertised brand of food, i.e. Purina, Friskies, Pedigree, Kal-Kan, Kennel Ration. Dogs LOVE a regular routine so find a brand they like and is available and stick to it.

For young dogs a puppy formula is better but not absolutely necessary. They have more calcium and protein than adult food for obvious reasons. This is a good time to supplement w/ a meat type canned food too, as meat is very high in calcium(did you know that?) and the protein in meat is of very good quality. Remember how to read a can? If the first ingredient is "meat and meat byproducts" then it is a "meat type" canned food. Many canned foods are mostly cereal. A supplement is OK.

Adult dogs do very well on plain adult dog food and water. Dogs working very hard and dogs in severe cold may need an extra ration of carbohydrates or fats (be careful with fats though) along with a little extra protein. The semi-moist foods are very high in sugar so they are a good addition, i.e. a "Gains Burger" or two or switch to something like "Kibbles and Bits." This and lactation is about the only place that I like semi-moist foods, as a high calorie supplement.

Pregnant dogs in the first and second trimester{0-42 days} need NO extra. Dogs in the third trimester {43-delivery} need A LITTLE extra. Once they deliver and start lactating they need A LOT extra. High Protein dog food for sure and some extra energy!! And maybe some supplements.

Sick dog? Consult your vet!! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

If you think about it, that just covered all dogs!

Now for supplements.....This is where people have a tendency to get into trouble!

Table scraps are OK so long as they do not exceed 10% of the diet. I only approve of vegetables, some milk, and LEAN Meat (if the dog is in severe cold, working very hard, or lactating SOME fat is OK but not a lot. Three helpings of pasta

or the rest of the potatoes and gravy is not a supplement, it's an impending case of congestive heart failure!! Remember it's spelled D-O-G not G-A-R-B-A-G-E C-A-N.

A vitamin designed for dogs is also OK, especially for puppies and lactating bitches. I like Pet-Tabs.

Calcium supplements are not needed w/ good nutrition and will not make poor nutrition good. They can be dangerous in puppies especially!!! (most cases of rickets today are CAUSED BY over supplementation of calcium) I do not consider Milk a calcium supplement, it is always OK.

Treats are OK but you need to remember a few things. "Milk Bones" and some of the other candy foods are loaded with sugar. They may be OK for those dogs with high caloric demands, but the average dog should not have them. A good treat is just a nugget of food out of the bag. If you make a game of giving it to him, he will love it. He's more interested in your attention, not a great tasting morsel. And if you think your "Milk Bones" are cleaning their teeth, e-mail me and I could get on my soap box again and cover that subject some day.

"Designer foods" are for people with too much money! If that is you, then please just send me a check for sending you this message, and then feed your dog Purina! A \$100.00 would be appropriate.

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Next time you hear an Iams, Eukanuba, etc. ad, listen if they say your dog will be healthier on their food. They DO NOT because they CANNOT because your dog WILL NOT. It's called false advertising! Boy, they sure dance around it though. That's called advertising!

Canned or dry food is another question. Both are good. Dry is cheaper, Cans are expensive. Remember my address if you feed canned. Actually, my dog gets Purina dry mixed with Pedigree canned, and water.

Now let me tackle the most opinionated part of this all with my VERY WELL PLACED opinion....that is home made food.

My undergraduate education is in Biochemistry, and I have a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree, both from a MAJOR UNIVERSITY i.e. Michigan State University, and I graduated Cum Laud.

I CANNOT TAKE NORMALLY AVAILABLE FOODSTUFFS AND PUT TOGETHER A DOG FOOD THAT

I WOULD WANT TO FEED MY OWN DOG!!! I CANNOT BE SURE IT IS COMPLETE AND BALANCED.

I do not have the training nor the laboratory to do the testing that I KNOW IS NECESSARY to assure a well balanced diet. "Jack" is to important for me to screw with his diet. While I might come close, why not don't I just do it right and buy Purina or Kal-Kan, etc. There are people at these companies that are able to be sure that their food is complete and balanced.

While I'm not saying that there are NO home make foods that are good; I AM SAYING THAT I WOULD NOT FEED THEM TO MY DOG.

Remember, I'm a Doctor, I don't play one on TV!!

Now that I have probably offended you all with my VERY STRONG opinions, Please realize that I have been in practice for 20 years, 9 months, 2 days, 8 hours, 31 minutes, 21 seconds, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26..... I have seen what works, and what is a disaster. I have owned and managed my own successful practice since the first of 1983. I was also Deb's vet until she got lucky and moved to Alaska. I do not think that I am thin in the head, or wet behind the ears; This works!!!

If I haven't still offended you, then e-mail Deb and she will tell you more evil stories about me.

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Approximate Caloric Requirements of Dogs

Weight of Your dog

Pounds	Kilograms	Weanling	1/2 Grown	Adult	Late Pregnancy	Lactation	Working Dog
5	2.27	507	370	244	348	870	740
10	4.55	853	623	411	585	1463	1245
15	6.82	1156	844	557	793	1983	1688
20	9.09	1435	1047	691	984	2461	2094
30	13.64	1944	1419	937	1334	3335	2838
40	18.18	2413	1761	1162	1655	4138	3522
50	22.73	2852	2082	1374	1957	4892	4164
60	27.27	3270	2387	1575	2244	5609	4774
70	31.82	3671	2679	1768	2519	6297	5359
80	36.36	4057	2962	1955	2784	6960	5923
90	40.91	4432	3235	2135	3041	7603	6470
100	45.45	4797	3501	2311	3291	8228	7002
110	50	5152	3761	2482	3535	8837	7521
120	54.55	5499	4014	2649	3773	9433	8028
130	59.09	5840	4263	2813	4007	10017	8525
140	63.64	6173	4506	2974	4236	10590	9012
150	68.18	6501	4745	3132	4461	11152	9491

If you are feeding a name brand dry dog food, one 8 oz. Cup equals about 85grams or 285 Calories per Cup.

If you are feeding a name brand meat type canned dog food, one 13.2 oz. Can equals about 375grams or 530 Calories per Can.

If you are feeding a name brand cereal type canned dog food, one 13.2 oz. Cup equals about 375grams or 320 Calories per Can.