

Home Veterinary Service

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* Make any changes to your dog's diet slowly over a 3 to 4 week period to avoid diarrhea.

Dogs are omnivores and need good quality protein, a moderate amount of fat and select carbohydrates. Vegetables are necessary as well as grains (Rice, corn, wheat). Here are some recommendations:

- **Feed human quality food:** broil or bake beef, poultry or fish. Pork can be too fatty and cause pancreatitis. No salty or sweet lunch meats. That's junk food for your dog! Add veggies to your mixture: about 1/3 meat, 1/3 veggies, preferably fresh or frozen and 1/3 grains. Use whole grain, like brown or basmati rice. If you cook the vegetables with meat, it will possess the flavor that they love. Dogs need greens: spinach, kale, broccoli and the like. Maintain a variety. Wolves, foxes and coyotes periodically nibble on grasses and they eat the stomach contents of prey animals, so this is an important component of a healthy canine diet.
- You must feed a quality **multivitamin** if you are going to home cook. Go to Bark or Dogs & Company (see Referral List) for a proper supplement. Don't just go to a generic pet store; many of the products sold there are sadly deficient.
- **Flax Seed Oil** provides essential fatty acids. Very small breed: 1/2 tsp/day, med. breed: 1 tsp, very large breeds: 1 tbsp. Keep refrigerated and introduce slowly to avoid diarrhea. Some pets like garlic and a small amount of salt. Play with spices to find what your pet prefers. Like us, they relish variety!
- You can make large quantities and freeze this concoction. Partition it into meal size baggies for convenience.

The healthiest diet for your dog is a **Raw Diet**. There are commercial preparations available, or you can shop for and prepare the food yourself. Though animals fed a balanced raw diet are vibrantly healthy, this is not a decision to be taken lightly. Raw meat that is not absolutely fresh or handled properly can cause vomiting, diarrhea and parasites. There is also a risk of salmonella and E. coli toxicity. If you wish you wish to pursue this style of feeding, do lots of research to fully educate yourself and handle fresh meat VERY CAREFULLY. Again, proper supplementation with vitamins and minerals is crucial. Dogs that have eaten canned or dry food for a long period of time will often need a pro-biotic supplement to aid in digestion as they adjust to the change.

Best feeding options for your dog:

1. **Raw diet** – Expensive to buy pre-packaged products, and must be very careful, detail-oriented and dedicated in order to prepare your own; but well worth the effort and expense.
2. **Home cooked diet** – Easy to do, cost can be reasonable if you buy ingredients on sale in bulk.
3. **Top quality pet foods** – Dry and canned varieties sold at Bark and Dogs & Company.

4. Common pet store brands – Iams, Eukanuba, Science Diet, Nutro, etc.
5. Grocery store brands – Fancy Feast, Purina, Frisky's, etc.
6. Generic products – Safeway, Giant, etc.

**** Read labels for the best quality protein content; whole meat is best (chicken, beef, lamb, etc.), then meal (chicken meal, etc.). Avoid products that use meat by-products. This can include indigestible parts of the carcass and generally denotes a poorer quality food.*