

3-6-9-oil blend that provides omega-3, 6 and 9 fatty acids. However, this may not be an option for you if your pet has a grain allergy as they often contain flaxseed oil.

Raw Eggs: An easy and cheap way to add an alternate protein source. Eggs also supply important nutrients such as biotin, vitamin B-12, vitamin A, vitamin D and essential fatty acids. Most dogs love them and you can simply add them to their meal a few times a week. The eggshells can also be saved to use as an occasional calcium supplement, when feeding meals that do not have bone content. The general rule of thumb when doing so is 1 tsp. per pound of meat. Supplementing calcium in this way should only be done occasionally.

Plain Yogurt/Cottage Cheese: A great treat to give once or twice a week. Plain yogurt is best with no extra sugar added. Yogurt helps to support the digestive tract by providing good bacteria.

Summary

Puppies should be fed 4-5 % of their body weight. Weigh them every couple of weeks and adjust the amount fed accordingly. For example a puppy that weighs 10lbs would be getting approx. 0.4 to 0.5lbs of food per day. A generic kitchen scale can be used to weigh out the amount fed.

Split this 4-5 % into 3 or 4 smaller meals daily – As the puppy grows (4-5 months for smaller breeds or 7-8 months for larger dogs) slowly taper off to 2 meals a day. As the puppy reaches 1 year old gradually aim closer to feeding 3% of their body weight.



Meet your puppy's nutritional needs by feeding variety. The concept is much the same as how you meet your needs with your diet.



Grow your puppy slowly avoid the pudgy puppy look. Extra weight only causes more strain on their joints.

Feeding Puppies

Weaning From Mom –

Once the puppies are mobile and their eyes are open around 3 and half weeks they can be introduced to chicken backs. You can give each puppy 1 to 2. Necks can be used as well for smaller breeds but are not ideal for larger breeds.

The pups are allowed to play with the backs for 10 or 15 minutes after which mom is allowed in the whelping box to clean up the food. This process is continued for about 4 or 5 days after which the puppies are introduced to their first meal of ground chicken (bone-in). After about a week or two of plain chicken vegetables and fruit can be introduced into their diet, either mixed in with the chicken or on their own.

Other varieties of meat are introduced slowly and by seven weeks the pups can be eating whatever mom is having. Their diet should now consist of a wide variety of meats, bones, veggies, fruit, eggs and organ meat. Once mom has stopped nursing the pups, supplements can be added to their meals (see the list given below) and they are happy, raw-fed pups.

New Puppy Owners:

When making the transition to raw food it is best to do so with cold turkey. You should not mix dry or canned food with raw food. These foods are primarily grain based and are digested at a different rate than raw food. Mixing the two forces the digestive system work harder to digest the meal and may lead to health problems.

Making the Switch:

Some new owners may choose to delay the switch a few days to allow the puppy to adjust to the stresses of a new home before throwing in the new element of a different diet. However, if your puppy has come from a breeder that feeds raw this is not a concern and your breeder can tell you what the puppy has been fed so far.

Start out simple with a diet such as chicken with veggies and fruit for the first couple of weeks. If you suspect that your dog may have food allergies you could try feeding just ground chicken or turkey, adding in vegetables and fruit as tolerated. Both options should include ground bone material giving your dog access to essential minerals such as calcium. When you start to add variety to their diet, do it gradually. This allows you the time to assess how your dog is dealing with each new food. If your dog has issues with one particular food or supplement it will be much easier to pinpoint the problem.

The Basic Diet:

Chicken with veggies and fruit or turkey with veggies and fruit depending upon your preference and/or your dog's tolerance. Both blends have bone ground in and add the benefit of extra vitamins, minerals as well as some fibre to your pets diet.

Additional Meals:

Bones: Chicken backs; chicken or turkey necks. Bones can be fed as a meal itself (based upon weight) daily or a few times a week. This allows their jaws, gums and teeth to get needed exercise, while also providing your dog with minerals like calcium and natural cartilage/joint tissue.

Organ Meats: Liver, kidney, heart, gizzards and tripe: An important source of nutrients – Liver for example is high in iron, calcium, magnesium, potassium, folic acid, vitamin C and vitamin A. In general organ meats are higher in fat. For this reason some people choose to feed them as part of a meal, mixed in with the basic diet. Generally the higher fat content is not an issue but can cause looser stools in some dogs if fed too frequently.

Alternate Meat Sources: plain ground chicken or turkey, beef, beef with veggies and fruit. Fish is great for offering variety and once adjusted to the new foods they can be added in to your dogs diet a couple times a week. It is important to note that beef and/or beef with veggies and fruit should not form the staple of your pet's diet because they do not have ground bone material and therefore do not supply the needed calcium.

Additional vegetables and fruit: Fruit and veggies can be given as a treat a good alternative to dog biscuits for those dogs allergic to grain. You can also always add your own extra fruits and vegetables to you dog's meal. This will offer various nutritional benefits and is helpful for those dogs trying to slim down or those who never seem to be full because it adds bulk without adding too many calories.

Supplement Options:

Sea Kelp: An excellent overall food to add 3 or 4 times a week to help meet your dog's vitamin and mineral needs. Kelp includes essential minerals such as iodine, calcium, potassium as well as precursors to vitamin E and essential amino acids.

Oils: An overall marine oil like salmon oil or arctic vigor which provides omega-3 fatty acids and can be given 3 to 5 times a week. These essential fatty acids are important in the development of cell membranes, reproduction and hair development. Adding cod liver oil also provides these omega-3 fatty acids but to a lesser degree than marine oils. They also supply vitamins A and D. Another option includes using a