



Henry County 4H Dog Club Canine Nutrition and Wellbeing

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The Responsibility of Dog Ownership

- Carefully consider your situation before you get a dog
 - Do you have the time and patience for training
 - Do you have the time to give the dog attention every day
 - Can you afford to own a dog –According to APPMA the average cost to keep a dog is \$1,571 a year – with an average lifespan of 10 years that's \$15,710!!
- Research and select wisely- whether you choose a purebred or a rescue there is no “free” dog



The Responsibility of Dog Ownership

- Don't take on more dogs than you can reasonably care for
- Spay or neuter unless you are seriously intending to breed
- Don't breed unless you have dogs that are worthy of being bred
 - Tested for all hereditary conditions
 - Proven in the field or show ring

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The Responsibility of Dog Ownership

There are no bad dogs or bad dog breeds – only bad owners



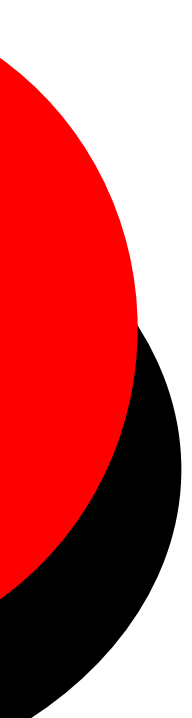
Caring for your dog

- Love
- Training
- Exercise
- Nutrition
- Health Care



Nutrition

- Providing the right food in the right quantity to maintain good health
 - Weight
 - Skin and Coat
 - Energy Level



Nutrition- How do you know if you are feeding right?

- Buy the most expensive dog food ?
- Give Supplements?
- Feed them all they want?
- Cook it yourself?

Nutrition - How do you know if you are feeding right?

- o The first and most important thing to do is look at your dog

Body Condition Chart

**FEED TO
ACHIEVE
IDEAL BODY
CONDITION**



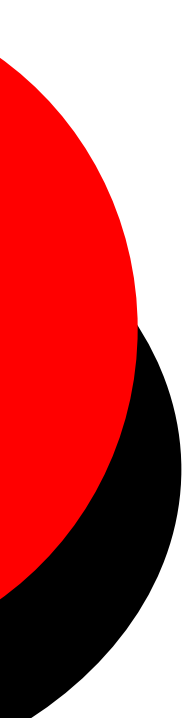
Underweight – Rib, spine and pelvic bones can be easily seen. Dog displays little abdominal fat.



Ideal – Rib, spine and pelvic bones cannot be seen, but can be easily felt. Dog's waist is highly defined. Belly curves up when dog is viewed from the side.



Overweight – Rib, spine and pelvic bones cannot be easily seen or felt. Dog's waist is undefined. Belly is rounded when dog is viewed from the side.



Nutrition – How do you know if you are feeding right?

- Poor Nutrition often exhibits in other conditions besides weight
 - Skin conditions,
 - Lick Granulomas
 - Hot Spots
 - Dull coat
 - Excessive shedding
 - Runny or irritated eyes
 - Bad Breath
 - Flatulence
 - Diarrhea
 - Lethargy or Excessive energy



Nutrients that dogs require

- What do you think is the most essential nutrient that dogs must have in their diet?



Nutrients that dogs require

○ Proteins

- Composed of amino acids, the basic building blocks of life. Dogs require protein in their diet to provide amino acids their bodies cannot produce

○ Carbohydrates

- Starches and Sugars provide the body with an immediate source of energy



Nutrients that dogs require

○ Dietary fats

- A combination of fatty acids which are involved in every aspect of health. It provides a concentrated, more slowly released form of stored energy
- Omega-3 and Omega-6 are two of the essential fatty acids in a canine diet

○ Fiber

- These materials generally pass through the gut without providing specific nutrients – merely helping to regularize bowel movement



Nutrients that dogs require

- Vitamins and Minerals

- Help regulate the body processes.
Most cannot be synthesized and
therefore must be provided in the diet



Selecting the right dog food

- Read the label

- Ingredients are listed in order by weight in the formulation – so the first ingredient is what comprises the highest percentage of the formulation
- It provides a guaranteed analysis - protein, fat, fiber and moisture (although it does not address the digestibility or bio-availability of these nutrients)
- Some provide a kilocalorie analysis (calories = energy, the more calories the more usable energy provided)

Selecting the right dog food

Look For		Avoid
Named meat or Fish (chicken, turkey, lamb, beef, herring, duck, venison)	Protein 1 st Ingredient	Unnamed food Ingredients (poultry by products, meat meal, bone meal)
Named Meat Meal (chicken meal, turkey meal, lamb meal, beef meal etc.		Protein fillers (corn, corn gluten meal, wheat gluten, egg product meal, soybean meal)



Selecting the right dog food

Look For		Avoid
Whole grains and starches (brown rice, barley, sweet potatoes)	Carbohydrates Fruits and Vegetables	Carb overload (refined flours, wheat, mill runs, brewer's rice)
Fresh Whole Fruits and vegetables (whole potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, alfalfa, apples)		Processed fruits and vegetables (dehydrated potatoes, tomato pumice, alfalfa meal)

Selecting the right dog food

Look For		Avoid
Named fats from quality sources (chicken fat, lamb fat, sunflower oil, flax oil, herring oil)	Fats, Oils	Unnamed fats (animal fat, poultry fat, vegetable oil)
Natural preservatives (mixed tocopherals, vitamin E)		Synthetic preservatives (BHA, BHT, ethoxyquin)



Selecting the right dog food

Look For		Avoid
Antioxidants (vitamin A, C and E)	Vitamins, Minerals, Supplements	Coloring (caramel color, FD&C colors)
Chelated Minerals (iron proteinate, manganese proteinate etc.)		



Selecting the right dog food

- Canned or Dry Kibble?
 - Dry kibble
 - Concentrated nutrition,
 - Often easier to feed
 - Does not require refrigeration
 - Canned food
 - Highly palatable
 - Because of the high moisture content it is less nutrient dense and therefore you have to feed more
 - Must be refrigerated after opening and cannot be left at room temperature for long



Selecting the right dog food

- Typically better quality dog foods
 - Provide better quality nutrition
 - Provide appropriate levels of all necessary nutrients including vitamins and minerals
 - Are fed in smaller quantities
 - Result in smaller fecal output
 - Improve overall health and thereby reduce veterinary expenses
- When comparing cost it is important to consider the total real cost not just the price of the bag



Selecting the right dog food

- What about life stage dog foods?
 - Puppies and pregnant or lactating females have different requirements and are best fed a puppy food
 - Puppies should stay on a puppy formulation for the first year of their life
 - Senior formulas may be beneficial but are not as necessary
 - Low calorie or reduced fat diets may a good choice for breeds that are inclined to obesity



When and how to feed

- Two feedings a day at regular times are recommended
- Adults are usually fine eating only once a day
- Free choice feeding is not generally recommended
- Leaving moist food out is asking for trouble



What if you are feeding right and your dog still doesn't look good

- See your vet
- Internal Parasites are often the cause of problems
- Food related allergies can be a problem even with the best food
- Many other health conditions and diseases can be a factor



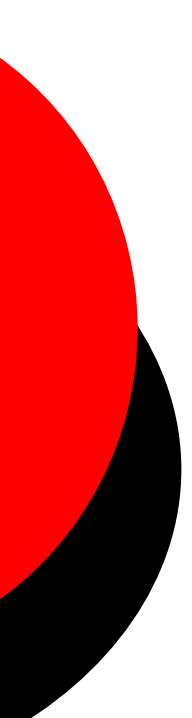
What if you're feeding all wrong but your dog looks great?

- Every dog is different
- Some dogs simply have the ability to survive and thrive even on poorer quality nutrition
- Continue to monitor and make changes if you have to (as your dog ages they may be less able to thrive on poorer quality nutrients)



What about table scraps and treats

- Use good judgment
 - Lean Meat and vegetables are fine
 - Fatty fried food is not a good idea
 - Highly spiced food is not a good idea
 - If your dog has problems – allergies, a sensitive stomach or bowels, probably best not to feed anything outside their normal diet
 - Treats are fine but evaluate them just like you evaluate their food



Foods that can be poisonous to dogs

- Grapes and raisins
- Chocolate
- Avocados
- Coffee, Tea
- Macadamia nuts
- Nutmeg
- Tomatoes (Tomato Plants especially)
- Onions
- Raw Eggs
- Excessive Salt
- Pits of cherries, peaches (basically all stone fruits)