

## Feeding your Dog

Many breeds are susceptible to bloat and torsion. The less stress on the gastrointestinal tract the better. Adult dog food that is 22-25% protein and 15-19% fat is recommended. Many recommend a raw foods diet. Good highly digestible dog foods usually contain more calories per pound and use smaller quantity amounts, which mean fewer stools. Remember! Less quantity of a quality food is a must to meet your dog's needs.

To read about different dog foods, good and not so good, research the following to find a food that is recommend:

- ?? <http://www.doglogic.com/food&feed.htm> (Resource Center)
- ?? <http://home.earthlink.net/~affenbar> (Natural Nutrition for Dogs and Cats" by Kymthy R. Schultze)
- ?? <http://www.barfbreeders.com/resources.htm> (Raw Food Diet)
- ?? [www.backtobasicspetfood.com](http://www.backtobasicspetfood.com) (Back to Basics 1-800-219-2558)
- ?? <http://www.nutroproducts.com> (Nutro Natural Choice - Sold at Petco & Petsmart)
- ?? <http://www.eukanuba.com> (Eukanuba - Sold at Petco & Petsmart)
- ?? <http://www.paulspetfood.com> (Paul's Pet Food Delivery Express 214-222-PETS 7387)

Guidelines:

- ?? Puppies should be fed 3-4 times, decreasing to 2-3 times a day at around 6 months of age. It can be dangerous to feed only once a day, due to the increased chance of bloat and stomach torsion (see bloat/torsion articles on doglogic site above).
- ?? You can also decrease the risk of stomach torsion by limiting activity for at least 60-90 minutes following a meal, and 30 minutes prior to a meal. Some people feed two or three antigas (simethicone) tablets or capsules with every meal to lessen the gas in the stomach. Simethicone is the active ingredient in Maalox anti-gas, Di-Gel, Phazyme, etc. (consult your veterinarian)
- ?? Their food should be raised off of the floor. There are commercially made raised feeders that can be purchased at pet supply stores and through mail order pet supply catalogs. Or you can feed them with the bowl on a kitchen chair or stool, etc. This helps to lessen the air intake during feeding and also will prevent the dog from straining his back at mealtime.
- ?? Another thing to realize, in overweight dogs, lowering the fat content can lead to skin and allergy type disorders. Instead, feeding a higher fat (15-19%), moderate protein (19-23%) food with lower calories and supplementing with some raw foods (meats and veggies) will facilitate steady and gradual weight loss, with little stress to the dog or its digestive system.
- ?? Most dogs do not like to share their bowls of food or be bothered while eating. If you have more than one dog make sure you feed them separately. This can lead to a dogfight over food. If you have children make sure to supervise them as well. If you are unable to do this feed them in their crate.
- ?? When dogs are fed a premium dry food they usually live a longer and healthier life. Dogs have a lower protein requirement compared to cats so make sure your dog sticks to dog food. Protein is one of the most important nutrients in the diet.

If you have any other feeding questions, please do not hesitate to contact HART.