

NUTRITION

It is not only important to have a well trained dog, but a happy dog too. Nutrition can be a factor in how well your dog performs. It can affect waste production, coat shedding, and overall energy. High quality, premium brands of dog food also digest easier than a majority of name brand dog foods. Easier digestion keeps dogs' stomachs settled and keeps the chemical balance in their stomachs at a consistent balance. When dogs' stomachs are consistently balanced, dogs don't actively seek out material to eat to try and settle their stomachs. This causes a drastic decrease in destructive chewing. Selecting a premium brand of dog food such as Earthborn Dog Food, will not only decrease waste production and coat shedding by more than 50%, but it also is easy for dogs to digest and will cause a drastic decrease in destructive chewing. All clients can get coupons for Earthborn Dog Food by either contacting Signature Dog Training, or by contacting sales Representative Byron Bates at: 1-800-474-4163 ext. 433 or by email at: bbates@midwesternpetfoods.com. All clients referred to Byron Bates, by Signature Dog Training, are eligible for receiving one free bag of Earthborn Dog Food every time they buy five bags. Consult with Byron Bates for details.

CORN AND ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

Corn and animal by-products are filler ingredients found in most dog foods. I recommend not feeding a food that contains these for four reasons. One reason is that they have no nutritional value for the dogs. The second reason is that a dog food that contains these ingredients means that sixty to seventy percent of that bag of food is going to be producing yard waste. Dogs who eat a diet that doesn't contain these ingredients have a reduced yard waste by more than half than of dogs that eat diets containing these ingredients. Finally, the third reason is that corn can also be a common allergen for dogs. Dogs allergic to corn can have excessive itching, hot spots, and skin infections. Dogs that eat a diet containing corn also usually have an unpleasant odor

that people usually refer to as "the dog smell." It is not really a dog smell as much as it is the skin having the allergic reaction to corn. Corn can also constipate dogs or give them diarrhea. The fourth reason is that animal by-products contain parts of animals that have been humanely euthanized. Being humanely euthanized is a good thing for the animal dying; however, using the remains of that animal in dog food is not a good idea. When a dog ingests the food containing the by-product, that dog is ingesting the phenylbarbotal. Over time that drug builds up in their systems leading to tumors and seizures and other medical conditions. Dog foods containing these ingredients that are as expensive as the healthier dog foods advertised on the market, are using a lot of that money for advertising. To find out if a food contains these ingredients, don't watch or read the advertisements, don't look at the front of the bag, look for the list of ingredients on the bag. When asked to recommend a dog food, I recommend Costco Signature dog food because it is inexpensive since they don't advertise, it doesn't contain corn or animal byproducts, and it contains nutrients for the skin and coat to reduce shedding.

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Weight affects all aspects of the dog. If they are under weight, then their performance and strength are weak. If they are over weight, then their performance is weak and they tire a lot quicker than a dog who is physically fit. When weight is maintained, it allows a dog to focus better because they are not distracted by physical discomforts; therefore, their performance is better. Maintained weight also allows for slower wear and tear on the joints. Slower wear and tear means longer joint health. Longer joint health means a longer life span.

JOINT SUPPLEMENT

It is always good to start dogs, especially highly physically active dogs, on joint supplement at one year old. Even if the dog food contains trace amounts of joint supplement, it is always good

for the joints to have extra help. With joint supplement started that early, the onset of arthritis and it's progression will be decelerated. I don't recommend giving joint supplement to puppies as their joints are still forming and it is better to let them grow naturally.

RAW DIET

The advantage of feeding a raw diet is that it is high in protein and it doesn't contain sodium, additives, preservatives, or chemicals. It's disadvantage is that it's preparation for the dog to eat is very time consuming. This diet is best suited for highly physically active dogs as a main diet. It is also a good supplement to a kibble diet and can also be used as an occasional treat. When fed, it needs to be in moderate amounts since excessive amounts can cause stomach upset.

KIBBLE DIET

The advantages to a healthy kibble diet is that it is nutritionally balanced for house and family companions. Not only is it pretty easily accessible, it also helps maintain dental health because the crunch of the kibble scrapes tartar off of the dog's teeth as they are chewing. I strongly recommend that a dog or puppy owner do a lot of careful research when selecting a dog food.

CANNED DIET

I don't recommend feeding canned dog food or the rolled dog food since it is a major contributor to halitosis, also known as plaque build-up. First a dog or puppy owner spends a lot of money buying the canned or rolled food which turns the teeth brown. The vet notices and says that the dog or puppy needs their teeth cleaned which costs a lot of money. It really doesn't make sense to buy canned or rolled food only to have to spend more money to clean up the plaque build-up that it caused on the teeth.