



ALL CARE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Feeding your Puppy

Puppies and young dogs suffer from a variety of bone and joint disorders. Especially important are those diseases caused by the incorrect feeding of puppies and young dogs, since these can be avoided. Over-feeding and over supplementation with unnecessary nutrients and minerals can have serious consequences. If you are getting your first puppy make sure you ask your vet for advice on feeding them.

Can I feed my puppy the same food as an adult dog ?

A correct diet is vital for puppies and young growing dogs. These animals have requirements which are different from the adult dogs, and most reputable manufactures now make "growth" or "junior" foods which supply the young dog with all the essential nutrients required for normal growth and bone development. In general, it is safer to stick to reputable brands. We recommend **Vetessentials and Burns puppy food**, as these are manufactured to a strict quality control guidelines. Prepared mixed feeds available through other outlets, such as agricultural feed merchants, may not have the same quality control procedures applied. These may be cheaper than other commercial brands of dog food, but they can have disadvantages. Some of these feeds have been shown to lack some essential diet components and may deteriorate if stored.

Why do growing dogs need special foods ?

Different breeds mature at different rates. In general, the larger the breed, the longer it takes for their bones to develop fully. Some big breeds may not be skeletally mature until 18 months of age. Whereas a small breed may not have stopped growing at around 6-8 months of age. It is very dangerous to over feed growing dogs. Severe and permanent damage can result to bones and joints. Steady, controlled growth should always be the aim. An over fed young dog may remain obese and with bone and joint problems for the rest of its life.

Are larger breeds of dog more at risk of problems related to diets ?

Large and giant breeds are especially prone to the dangerous effects and over feeding and over supplementation with, e.g. calcium or vitamin d. These dogs should be fed carefully, ensuring there is not rapid weight gain and exercise should be moderate and regular. Many manufacturers produced feeds specifically designed for large and giant breeds we recommend **Vetessentials large breed**. Balanced commercial feeds should never be supplemented except under specific veterinary advice. Excessive levels of some of the essential dietary requirements can upset sensitive checks and balances within the body, and cause problems for the development of bones and joints.



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[How do I know if I am over or under feeding my young dog ?](#)

Most reputable dog feeds come with feed charts showing the amount to feed. However, these recommendations are only guidelines- individual dogs may require more or (quite commonly) a little less than that stated. If in doubt, seek professional advice.

