



Ref 11 v 6

BENEFITS

- Improved Immune System
- Healthy Digestion
- Prevent Future Problems
- Proper Growth & Development
- Healthy Behavior



DEXTER SUGGESTS

Ask our knowledgeable staff for suggestions for your puppy's needs.

Check out these books:

- *See Spot Live Longer*
- *Raw Dog Food: make it easy for you & your dog*
- *Grow Your Pup with Bones*
- *Holistic Guide for a Healthy Dog*
- *Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health For Dogs & Cats*
- *The New Holistic Way for Dogs & Cats*

EXTRA CARE FOR PUPPIES

START YOUR PUPPY OUT RIGHT. A combination of basic and preventative nutrition is a safe and effective approach that both reduces potential health problems and optimizes the wellbeing of the animal.

WHY DOES MY PUP HAVE DIARRHEA? Don't assume it's your puppy's food. While they may have simply eaten something they found on the floor that wasn't appropriate, it's equally likely that their diarrhea is a reaction to vaccinations, pesticides, antibiotics, and in some cases parasites. Prebiotics and Probiotics are the most important preventative for puppy diarrhea. Be sure that your puppy isn't vaccinated when they're showing signs of illness.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR PUPPIES While you should be careful that you don't overdo some nutritional supplements for puppies, there are a few that are incredibly important.

GOOD additions for any puppy, you can't start too early!

- Probiotics - #1 supplement to add
To build healthy digestive and immune systems
- Fish Oil
For Omega 3 Fatty Acids – important for the brain and immune system
- Antioxidant Plant Foods
Improved vaccine response, improved immune system. Adding powdered formulas are an easy and effective source.

What **NOT** to add to your puppy's "nutritionally complete" commercial diet

- Calcium - (supplements and food high in calcium like cottage cheese) Before six months of age their body cannot regulate calcium uptake, it ALL goes in so it's easy to overdo it. Too much can cause skeletal problems, especially in large breeds.
- Multivitamin - You might be doubling up on some nutrients, and creating more of a problem.
- Carbohydrates, Fiber, Sugar - Young puppies don't have much of the enzyme needed to digest carbs, and high blood sugar in puppies can cause them to grow too fast. Too much fiber can make them feel full too soon, and can block some nutrients. Treats can be a hidden source, so training treats should mainly be their food and carefully chosen meat products. Don't add "filler" to their bowl like rice.

...more on page 2



PRODUCTS

- Answers Additional Goat Milk
- Animal Essentials Plant Enzymes & Probiotics
- Jarrow Petdophilus

- Dr. Harvey's Formative Years
- Pet Wellness Blends Canine Wellness

- Animal Essentials Omega-3
- Grizzly Fish Oils
- Nordic Naturals Fish Oil

- Colostrum

- Kong foraging toys
- Earthdog Hemp Toy

- Liquid Health K9 Glucosamine

- *Before & After Getting Your Puppy* by Ian Dunbar

PUPPY FOOD – FOR THE WHOLE GROWTH PERIOD. If you switch your puppy to adult food too early, they may need to eat more food to meet their energy needs. This may lead to imbalances in some nutrients, especially calcium. Different size dogs grow at different rates, so they need to stay on puppy food for different lengths of time.

- Small dogs (Papillons, Yorkies, etc) until 8 months of age
- Medium dogs (Bull Terrier, Corgi) until 12 months of age
- Large dogs (Labrador Retrievers, Rottweilers, etc) until 15 to 18 months of age
- Giant dogs (Newfoundland, Great Dane, etc) until 18 to 24 months of age

LARGE & GIANT BREED PUPS Large (adults over 70 lbs) and Giant breeds need to grow more slowly than Small and Medium breeds, so they benefit from formulas designed for them, or simply eating “all life stages” food. Due to their relatively smaller digestive tract they have less capacity, so they need highly digestible food, and more protection of their digestive system. Quality sources and processing of ingredients is essential.

WHAT ABOUT “ALL LIFE STAGES” FOOD? If food is designated for all life stages that means that it has to be appropriate for puppies. As long as there is enough protein (at least 24%) and fat, you can use these foods for puppies. There is no evidence that higher protein is bad, but there is evidence that low protein is bad.

LEAN IS NOT MEAN Always maintain your puppy's weight properly – they should be lean! That means some cushioning over the hips & spine, plenty of muscles in the legs, and easy-to-find ribs. Your puppy may have looked pudgy at 8 weeks of age, but they need to be lean while they're growing to protect their developing joints. If your puppy grows up fat it's very hard to ever get them lean as an adult. Talk to your vet about your pup's progress as they grow.

BEST TOYS FOR PUPS – DURABLE & THOUGHT-PROVOKING Be careful not to over-exercise your puppy while it's still growing. During their first year their skeletons are most susceptible to damage. They may want to play fetch for an hour, but they can damage their joints with too much high activity. It's recommended that large breed pups get a basic joint supplement between 7 & 18 months of age to prevent future problems.

Try activating their mind instead through fun training games and foraging toys. Every pup should have at least one Kong. Anything your puppy can eat can be put in a Kong, so use it to feed part of their meal. Other foraging toys are great for dry food, and will occupy them for quite awhile. Get a copy of our handout on stuffing Kongs!

Young pups going through early teething do well with frozen toys. Hemp rope toys can be soaked in water and frozen, providing a soothing chew for sore gums. Older pups who chew a lot usually benefit from brain games to help them deal with boredom and excess energy. Clicker training is a great way to teach them new games and obedience.