

# ***WHAT TO FEED MY LARGE BREED PUPPY***

Puppy food for large breed puppies is much more important than small/medium breeds, as you need to feed a formula that will **not** promote rapid bone growth (especially for breeds that have a higher susceptibility to hip and joint disease).

A raw fresh meat and veggie diet will provide your dogs with the best opportunity to live a longer healthier life with a reduced chance of developing problems with their kidney, liver, pancreas and heart.

Kibble (no matter how healthy the label reads) is highly processed making it hard for your dog's digestive system to break down and absorb the nutrients. It's also very taxing on your dogs organs, causing their organs to be overworked, reducing your dog's chances of living a longer and healthier life. If raw isn't an option for you, at least add some fresher foods such as cooked veggies or healthy leftovers. Do be conscience about the calories you are adding and excess fat. Dogs will be able to absorb more nutrients in fresher foods than highly processed ones.

If you are looking for the best kibble on the market to feed your puppy, I will recommend a few brands below. The key factor is to feed a food with a calcium level at 1.2% or lower. All four of the foods below fall within these levels. There isn't one food better than the other. The key is variety. Pick a large breed puppy formula to start, then rotate every **3-6 months** with a different protein source to avoid a deficiency and/or allergy from overfeeding the same ingredients. Feed the large breed puppy formula until your puppy is 18 months old.

## **1. American Natural Premium Exhibitors Choice:**

Although this food does not say "large breed puppy formula" its calcium and phosphorus levels are very suitable for large breed puppies. Its a small Wisconsin based company that prides themselves on what goes in the food and its very inexpensive

(\$42.99 for 40# bag). Also, it would be suitable for your adult dog to eat as well.

## **2. Solid Gold Wolf Cub:**

The Solid Gold Company was the pioneer of healthy pet foods in the USA. The owner of the company raised champion Great Danes in Germany. She moved to United States in the 70s and was shocked to find only poor quality foods for pets, so she launched her company to provide healthier pet foods in the states. Solid Gold Wolf Cub formula is a bison and fish formula making it a great rotation food from the commonly used chicken formulas. They also use the highest quality grains loaded with nutrients, such as barley, millet and brown rice.

## **3. Orijen Large Breed Puppy Formula:**

Orijen Large Breed Puppy Breed Puppy Formula is **grainfree** and contains a variety of animal protein sources such as chicken, turkey, fish and whole eggs. It contains 70% of animal ingredients making it a very biologically appropriate food for a carnivore. The downside on this food is it is very expensive at \$65.99 for a 29# bag. If you are interested in spending \$65.99 for a 29# bag of food, I encourage you to feed a raw meat diet, as it wouldn't cost you much more and would be ALOT healthier. Although Orijen is expensive, it is a premium food and a health option for non-raw feeders.

## **4. NutriSource Large Breed Puppy:**

This is the only food in my store that contains corn gluten. Generally, I am against corn in dog food, but there is a purpose for it in the large breed puppy formula. Corn gluten is the protein source from corn. NutriSource formulated a puppy food that provides puppies with the protein they need for their activity level, without adding extra calcium and phosphorus that is inherent in animal sourced protein. The corn gluten is the 7th ingredient making it an insignificant ingredient and is not added in the adult formulas.

