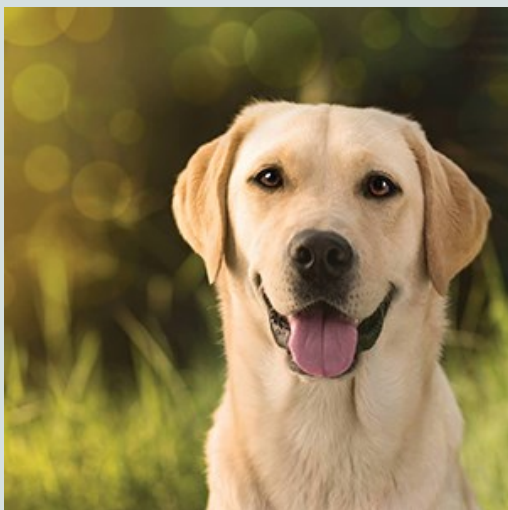


What kind of food do you feed your pet?

Our doctors are often asked to make recommendations for a high quality pet food. There are so many different diets available, it can be very difficult to know which diets are safe, healthy and appropriately balanced.

We developed this brochure to help alleviate the challenges associated with choosing the right food for your dog. However, every dog, like every human, has different nutritional requirements. It is very important that you work with your veterinarian to determine the nutritional needs for your pet.



When changing your pet's food it is important to switch gradually, as it is easier on your pet's digestive system, and reactions to the new food will generally be less severe. Each change should be gradual with several days between changes. All in all it should take a few weeks. Even a 4-day transition can help avoid digestive upsets.



Cascade Location:
6730 Cascade Road SE
Grand Rapids, MI
(616) 949-0960

Breton Village Location:
2496 Burton St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI
(616) 988-4980



Our Doctors' Diet Recommendations for Your Dog



(616) 949-0960

www.chfa.net

What to look for in a brand?

Do they employ a Nutritionist?

Appropriate qualifications are either a PhD in Animal Nutrition or Board Certification by the American College of Veterinary Nutrition (ACVN) or the European College of Veterinary Comparative Nutrition (ECVCN).

Who formulates the diet?

The recipe should be developed by an experienced pet food formulator (MS or PhD in Animal Nutrition). An individual with Board Certification by ACVN or ECVCN may also work in collaboration with pet food formulators to help guide ingredient selection and nutrient levels.

What is the quality control process for ingredients and finished products?

Manufacturers and pet food providers should have adequate quality control to ensure companion animal and owner safety. This should include ingredient validation, final diet nutrient analysis, toxicology, bacteriology, and packaging/shelf-life screenings prior to, during, and after manufacturing.

For more information, visit the WSAVA Global Nutrition Committee website at wsava.org/global-guidelines/global-nutrition-guidelines

AAFCO Statement: Diets formulated to meet Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) guidelines should meet their nutrient profile based on analysis using a nutrient database or on chemical analysis of the finished product. We only recommend feeding diets that comply with AAFCO guidelines.

Non-Prescription Dog Food Brand Recommendations

- Hill's Science Diet
- Royal Canin
- Purina ProPlan



Take Note: The words *natural* and *holistic* have no actual defined meaning or regulation when it comes to labeling a diet. The only term that has an actual definition associated with it is organic. Organic ingredients have been raised and processed without any chemicals, sprays or pesticides.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should my dog be on a grain-free diet?

Unless there is a medical reason, dogs should NOT be on a grain-free diet. The FDA has found a link between grain-free diets and heart disease in dogs. Dogs are not obligate carnivores and do not require a grain-free diet. Grain is also not a common source of allergies or gastrointestinal distress in dogs. We also do not recommend diets containing legumes, pulses (seeds of legumes) or potatoes as a main ingredient due to their association with heart disease in dogs. Please consult with your veterinarian before feeding a grain-free diet to your dog.

Should I feed my dog a raw diet?

Raw diets are not for everyone. These diets have additional health risks (both dog and human) associated with them. Rarely is a raw diet needed for dogs. Please consult with your veterinarian before feeding a raw diet to become educated on the additional risks and how to make sure the diet is balanced.

Should I feed my dog a diet with a unique protein source?

There are many diets with unique or novel protein sources such as kangaroo, venison and fish available. We will use these novel protein sources for dogs with medical conditions such as food allergies. However, if a veterinarian has not recommended your dog be on a novel protein diet, we recommend sticking with more common protein sources like chicken, beef or lamb.

