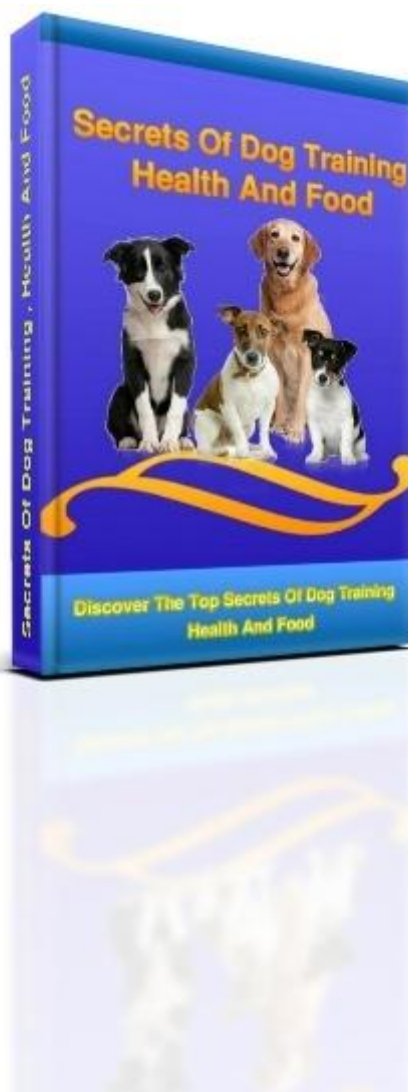


Secrets of Dog Training , Health And Food

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Introduction :

Bringing a cute puppy into your home is a great joy which only a person who does that can experience. These dogs provide you with a very sincere relationship which you cannot get anywhere else in the world.

There can be two situations after bringing in a dog and one of them is that your kids and family may get hours of entertainment, pure love and lots of fun with that dog. The other situation is little embarrassing because your dog can also bring destruction, chaos and discipline problems in your house.

To ensure that you always have the first situation with your dog, you need to train your dog accordingly and make sure that he has the proper manners to live with humans.

Also you should take care about your dog's health and choosing the best food for your dog .

Chapter 1 : Dog Training

Top 10 Dog Training Tips :

1. Concentrate on what your dog is doing right. Professional dog trainers everywhere tell their students to reward their dogs when they do something right. This “positive training” method is in contrast to training that centers on punishment. Trainers recommend that owners praise and reward their dogs with treats and affection for good behavior instead of just scolding them for bad behavior.

2. Be proactive and keep your dog from behaving badly in the first place. One of the most important tips that a professional dog trainer will tell his or her students is that good behavior is not just the responsibility of the dog. The owner must make every effort to avoid giving the dog the ability to engage in bad behavior while they are still learning the ropes. For example, if you notice that your dog likes to chew, it's important to make sure that everyone in the home puts their shoes behind closed closet doors to remove temptation.

3. Stop saying NO! One of the biggest mistakes that people make when training their dogs is saying NO without giving the dog an explanation of some type. Dogs, much like children, will become confused with a simple command of NO! Here's what you should do instead. If your dog is stealing the cat's food, tell him NO and then gently guide him to his own food dish. Or, if your dog is chewing on a table leg tell him NO and give him rawhide or another toy on which he can chew. Once your dog begins to actually use the new behavior, reward him with treats, toys and praise.

4. Learn the difference between boredom and separation anxiety. It is important to determine whether your dog is misbehaving when you leave home because he is bored, or because he is experiencing a case of separation anxiety. Figuring out why your dog is engaging in bad behaviors is usually the quickest way to combat the problem. If boredom seems to be the issue, you can probably keep your dog from destroying your house during alone time by providing him a toy stuffed with treats or something else that will help exercise his mind a little. If separation anxiety is the problem, you will need to learn ways to desensitize your dog to not only your absence, but also your “preparing to leave” routine.

5. Consider trying clicker training. Clicker training is a relatively new technique in the dog training world and involves the owner using a specific sound to indicate to their dog that a particular behavior is acceptable or desired. The owner will repeat the “click” and then reward their dog for his or her good behavior. The positive feedback will encourage the dog to repeat the good behavior.

6. Be patient, persistent and consistent. These three behaviors on the part of an owner will develop similar behaviors in a dog. Patience means that you understand that learning new behaviors may take some time and a lot of practice and repetition. Persistence means that you, as the owner, do not give up when training does not seem to be going well. Consistent means that your dog knows what to expect from you. For example, if you always say NO when your dog is misbehaving, they learn to recognize NO as a sign of disapproval. Conversely, if you only give treats for good behavior, your dog will learn to recognize such positive feedback.

7. Start early. As soon as you get a dog, you should begin training in some capacity. If you are getting a late start, it may take some time to catch up. The key to remember is that training is often nothing more than reversing bad habits and behaviors. If your dog is young, they haven’t had a chance to develop a significant number of these bad behaviors and training will be simple. With an older dog, you really have to unteach everything the dog knows about behavior and start to retrain behaviors that you find acceptable.

8. Be kind and gentle for best results. An owner who constantly punishes his or her dog for bad behaviors is bound to be a lot less successful than an owner who is gentle and kind, rewarding his or her dog for acceptable behaviors. Consider offering your dog plenty of praise, and be gentle when redirecting his attention from a bad behavior to one that is more acceptable to you.

9. Have reasonable expectations. For example, if your dog misbehaves at home you are wise to expect that he will misbehave at the dog park or in the yard. Therefore, if your dog is having trouble paying attention to your commands you will want to make sure to keep him on a leash when outside. If your dog jumps on people in the house, expect that he will be rough with other dogs. You can reverse these behaviors through positive training, but you need to realize that bad behaviors will most likely continue regardless of the circumstances until they have been unlearned by your dog.

10. Always enforce your commands. If you give commands, but do not enforce them, your dog will learn that there is no reason to listen to you. On the other hand, if you back up your commands with reinforcement he will quickly learn that you mean business. For example, if you tell your dog to sit and he ignores you, gently push him into the desired position and praise him. Always praise good behavior as a means of enforcing your commands. To know more about how to make your dog or puppy obey your command with the easiest and step by step dog training systems download this eBook now from [HERE](#).

Tips for Training Your Canine :

Puppies learn at various speeds.

Some dog breeds tend to be thought to be very easy to train and respond quickly, while others require a lot more work and firm handling. How fast your dog will learn will be

determined by which teaching technique you might be utilizing, how constant you are and the breed of dog. It will additionally depend on what you are endeavoring to teach.

There is absolutely no age at which a pet should stop learning. Neither should you cease dog training simply because he has mastered all his primary commands or has completed taking conventional classes. You must keep training and teaching your pet dog his entire life. The pointers listed are to help you to teach your pet to learn anything which you choose to teach and at any age.

Always utilize the same command. Many dog owners inadvertently confuse their pets. A perfect example is demanding the puppy to get into the down position. If you'd like this to mean that the dog lays on the carpet with his belly flat then use the 'down' command. On the other hand, you can't then utilize the expression 'down' to tell your dog to stop jumping or to take his feet off the countertop unless you wish him to get into that position. If that's what you are requesting great, but many owners use the term 'down' at different times. If you'd like your dog to quit jumping use a different command word, try the word 'off' or 'floor' as an alternative. Commands words can only have a single meaning.

Always speak in a very clear voice. Whenever issuing a command it is exactly that a command. You are not requesting, you are telling your dog what to do. You do not need to employ an angry voice, just a very clear strong tone.

Keep training sessions short. Puppies tend to be easily distracted and bored especially young dogs. You will get far better results from three, five to ten minute practice sessions than 1 lengthy twenty minute training session.

Do not get angry or discouraged. If both you or the dog are having a difficult time with a certain command, stop and try again during the next session. Training takes time and patience but you need to make sure that it is a good positive experience.

It is best to begin training any brand new command in a tranquil location. For many new commands you should have the pups complete focus. You can best achieve this by removing as many temptations as you possibly can from the training vicinity. Once the dog has a basic knowledge of the command you can test utilizing it in more demanding places.

You must help to make training enjoyable. Dogs respond far better when you have a relaxed, positive frame of mind. Always conclude teaching sessions on a optimistic note, either having a exciting game or by performing several commands that your pet knows well.

How To Stop Your Dog From Barking :

Few things in life can drive you crazy as a constantly barking dog. Whether they have that deep shuddering "Woof, woof, woof" or that ear piercing "Yap, Yap, Yap" it can do your head in very quickly.

The great news is that barking is not something that dogs need to do in order to be happy. In fact, generally speaking barking is a sign of stress, frustration, anxiety or over excitement and none of these emotions are particularly good for your dog.

Or you!

Remember a content, relaxed dog does not bark!

So lets take a look at one specific type of barking and get you started on putting a stop to it...

Dogs who bark when you are not at home is a very common issue. Usually people have no idea that they have a problem until the neighbour or even worse the dog control officer pays you a visit. Understanding why your dog is barking is the key to stopping it so you can actually address the cause of your dogs problem and not just treat the symptoms.

Now bear with me on this one because... you MUST remember you have to see it all through your dogs eyes!

So think of it like this...

Your dog is a pack animal and understands that there are leaders and followers.

And one of the pack leader's jobs is to protect the pack.

So when on Monday morning everybody leaves the house to go to work and leaves the dog at home alone they become stressed... and so would you if you lost your pack!

That's the reason why they're stressed and barking. They are calling out to you to come back. They just are trying to do their job.

Think about it... If you are a parent with a young 3 year old child, one of your main jobs is to keep that child safe, so you keep an eye on them. All the time. All over the house you know where they are. They are safe. You are relaxed.

If they suddenly walk out of the house and shut the front door behind them locking you in what would you do?

Chase after them? Of course...

But. What if the door was locked and you couldn't open in. And all the other doors and windows are locked. Then what would you do...

Phone for help? Your dog doesn't have that option!

Shout for help? Well that is exactly what your dog is doing...

You certainly wouldn't sit down, relax and have a cup of tea, knowing your young child was wandering around the streets alone.

Are you starting to see why your dog is stressed and barking when you leave now?

And all those other annoying behaviors such as chewing, destruction and trying to dig under the fence, or jump over the fence that only happen when you're not around... Yep, that's right. They are all symptoms of a stressed dog that's desperately concerned about you not being home and safe. Remember your dog can't speak English to tell you any of this!

So what's the solution? Well it's almost certainly not by giving them a bone to chew on whilst you are away. Imagine saying to the parent who is totally stressed that their young child is out on the streets...

"Don't worry, here's a box of chocolates"! You may love chocolates but it is not going to work in this situation.

Toys jammed full of food and other distractions do not treat the cause of the problem either. They are only treating the symptoms and so may work, if you're lucky, for half an hour or so – max – but not long term. Most of you will know that this doesn't work because you'll have already tried it!

The solution is actually very simple.

You need to become the pack leader in your dog's eyes.

Once you do this correctly your dog will not see it as their job to protect you.

You will be able to come and go as you please and they will be totally relaxed.

This is the real solution to having a calm relaxed dog. No tricks here, just an honest understanding.

Now. Becoming the pack leader is not complicated. Anyone can do it, however it's not really something that I can explain in 2 minutes here. If you take a look at Doggy Dan's website [Click here](#) he explains very powerfully how to establish yourself as the pack leader and stop dogs from barking when you leave them.

Here though are additional tips that you can use in conjunction with becoming the pack leader that will help stop your dogs barking.

- **Exercise:** Exercise your dog before you leave them – a tired dog is more likely to relax
- **Find the right space:** Try leaving your dog in different areas – some dogs will relax more outside, others inside and some prefer smaller areas such as a washroom
- **Fed and watered:** Always leave water down and make sure that your dog is warm and fed before you leave
- **Pick up the bones:** Leave toys around for your dog but not bones
- **Music and TV:** Consider leaving music on for your dog or the TV – these distractions can help
- **Herbal remedies:** There are some herbal products for dogs which can help relax them – but again they do not really treat the cause of the issue, they simply help relax them, and are also quite costly

- **Dog walkers:** A break in the middle of the day can certainly help break up your dogs day
- **Leave calmly:** Leave your dog calmly – whilst it's fun to get excited when you leave your dog it's better if you leave calmly. Try to say goodbye 5 minutes before leaving to help them stay relaxed as you go
- **Comfort jackets:** There are also jackets and shirts available that are designed to comfort them – however they are very expensive and have limited success in my experience. I even know of one dog that ate it!

Unfortunately the popular idea that getting another dog is going to stop the problem is something I would stay well away from. Remember the source of your dogs issue is not boredom. After all, many dogs who bark all day when the owners leave are the same dogs who lie around the house doing nothing most of the weekend when they are at home!

So with all that said hopefully now you have a far better understanding of your dog's problem!

I would suggest if you are really serious about stopping the barking immediately then take a look at Doggy Dans site and become the pack leader. That will be the end of your issue.

To take a free look around the site [CLICK HERE](#)
There is actually an entire section dedicated to stopping this sort of barking under the dog problem section "Separation Anxiety".

It's not hard but you have to understand your dog's problem through their eyes rather than human eyes! They do not want more bones, or biscuits shoved into a ball – what they want is a strong pack leader.

So get started now, don't hang around. The sooner you turn things around the sooner your neighbors will be thanking you for it!

How to train a dominant dog :

Have you ever been in the situation where you are out for a walk with your dog, happily going down the street when your heart misses a beat and then sinks because you see another dog coming?

It means only one thing. Your lovely but very dominant dog is going to try to leave their mark on yet another dog. And you've no idea how badly this could go!

Even though the other dog is on a leash you know you're in trouble if they come too close, and so you start looking for an exit strategy...

But before you know it your dog is pulling like crazy and the hair on their back is starting to rise.

You've tried everything to stop this behavior. Like tugging on the leash, a different collar, distraction with food but nothing has made the slightest bit of difference. Now it's just a case of keeping them separated at all costs.

You've started to give up all hope.

So where did it all go so horribly wrong?

The thing that so many dog owners and trainers don't seem to understand is that if you've been giving your dog the wrong messages at home then it's too late to turn it around when you see another dog on the street.

The simple fact is this...

Dogs are simple animals. And I mean that in a very loving way. But they're simply not interested in bigger TVs, faster cars or their next holiday.

Rather, dogs are about survival. First and foremost. Which includes protect the property and the pack, especially when they are outside.

Now. Think about it. Dogs are pack animals. They understand there are leaders and followers.

And the leaders decide what is dangerous and take the initiative protecting the pack.

So what do you think happens when your dog thinks that they are the pack leader and they walk down the street and see another strange dog coming?

That's right. They walk up to them chest-up, head-up, tail-up and try to get them to back down.

And that's when it all goes pear-shaped.

But what started the reaction was giving your dog the message that they were in charge in the first place! That they're in fact the Pack Leader in your home.

This is where Doggy Dan's dog training method is so cool. He totally understands how to show dogs that you're the pack leader.

But what's really impressive is that he does it in such a kind and gentle way. And its very simple, he uses 5 Golden Rules.

When you can see Doggy Dan's pack around other dogs they do not overplay their role because they all know that he is the pack leader and so can take it easy.

Now of course all dogs are different and some dogs are naturally more dominant than others, and there are some who like to be more submissive. It doesn't really matter what kind your dog is.

The secret is this:

YOU need to be the Pack Leader. Once you establish this you will find all the other training tricks will start to work. A gentle pull on the leash, the distraction using a food treat and the gentle word of warning.

The fact is that the training approaches that you're currently using are probably really good ones but without a solid foundation they simply don't work.

Because in summary your dog is not taking any notice of you once the other dog shows

up. Your dog has bigger things to worry about, like protecting followers in their pack (you).

So, to turn it around... again, YOU need to become the pack leader.

Doggy Dan has given me some great training tricks that I can share that will help you achieve that calmer dog as the other dogs approach, so here are a couple. But remember, the pack leader foundation HAS to be in place first.

- **Food distractions:** This approach can really work with some food hounds! The key is this: use it as a distraction. Do not reward your dog after they have lunged towards the oncoming dog. Use amazing food, such as chicken or cheese. Not their usual biscuits!
- **Take it slowly:** Do not expect miracles overnight. Unless you've just put the pack leader rules in place! Often pushing things too fast will result in it going wrong, but going slowly builds confidence.
- **Master the walk:** Make sure that you've gotten control of your dog's walking before you meet the oncoming dog. If you need to consider a device other than a flat collar to achieve this then do so.
- **Stay focused on what you want:** It's easy to get sucked into following your dog's behavior but remember that you need to continue to show your dog exactly how you want them to behave.
- **Be ready to step in:** Stay focused on the best result but be ready to step in and quickly guide your dog away or gently tug or correct them. Once you've done this remember to relax immediately afterwards.

One of the things that I love about this whole method is that it works with your dog's natural instincts.

For example it's natural that one dog will be above another. You can't take that out of dogs. But by positioning yourself as the top dog in the pack, they will not be nearly as likely to become overly protective, tense, dominant or take things too far.

If you want to watch a great video of two dogs playing at being dominant and submissive then check this video out. [CLICK HERE](#)

If you're thinking that it's time to take control back from your dog, and become the kind and gentle pack leader that they are looking for then [CLICK HERE](#)

Remember that trying to deal with the problem when you see the other dog approaching is always going to be too late. It's about sorting out the real cause of the issue that will turn things around.

Your dog is just waiting for you to give them the right messages!

How Can I Keep My Dog Calm Under Exciting Circumstances :

Let me start this part with a couple of human examples. To do that I'll need to ask you a question. What makes the difference between a well behaved child and a child that is out

of control? I think most people will agree that training is one of the very important things in that process. Yes simply teaching the child what is acceptable and what is not.

The same thing is true with your dog. First of all we need to consider the dog's age and I think you'll understand that a very young puppy is going to be more excitable and out of control than a dog that is older. However training should start with a puppy and not wait till your dog is older and has developed a bunch of bad habits.

Some of the exercises that can help with this include walking on a leash nicely so the dog isn't dragging you down the street or towards other people. The sit stay and the down stay are also very important exercises to teach control and to keep your dog calm. These exercises can all be taught to your dog starting at the age of four months. Again keep in mind just like a child your dog may be learning these exercises but won't be perfect with them when it is this young.

Okay so here's the good stuff. Now I'm going to share with you how to keep your dog calm.

Exercise

Yes, it's as simple as that one word, exercise. So how do we go about getting enough exercise to keep your dog calm? Go for daily walks. If 30 minutes doesn't do it shoot for an hour. In fact a lot of people love using a treadmill for this.

Another way to exercise your dog if it likes to chase a toy is to go out and play retrieve games. Yes, throw that ball or toy until your dog is worn out.

Now here's the best way to exercise your dog without you having to do anything. I love doggie daycares for this. Be sure that you choose a daycare that evaluates all new dogs for temperament before allowing them in the program. This will help assure you that your dog is with other friendly dogs. I have found that if you will take your dog to doggie daycare two or three times a week you'll be amazed at how much calmer your dog is. Doggie daycare offers nonstop activity for your dog and definitely gets rid of a lot of that energy.

Give Your Dog A Job :

Is your Border Collie being mischievous? Is your German Shepherd digging under the fence? Is your Labrador Retriever driving you crazy by bringing you the ball? These are all examples of a bored working dog that needs something to do.

Quite often a new dog owner will buy a dog that's meant for working but their lifestyle is of the type that will not give the dog the exercise and work that it needs.

So here are some things that you can do to give your working dog a job.

1. Go for a daily walk - if 30 minutes doesn't seem to be enough shoot for an hour you'll be amazed at what it does for your dog and for your waistline as well. Even better yet if you are a jogger take your dog with you. Depending on its physical condition you may need to condition it for longer runs but it will be good for both of you.
2. If you have a dog that enjoys Frisbee teach your dog to catch a Frisbee and spend some time every day playing with your dog. In fact if you both get into the Frisbee game there are actually clubs that you can join in most major cities that include training and competition.
3. Obedience training is another way to give your dog a job. Yes obedience train your dog 2 - 3 times a day for a simple short no more than 15 minutes at a time session. You will be amazed at how a 15 minute obedience session can take some of the energy out of your dog.
4. If you would like your dog to use it's brain there are now several different toys that will challenge your dogs mind while it tries to figure out how to get a treat. Take a look at your local pet store or simple Google "mind games for dogs".
5. If your dog enjoys swimming you can always take him down to the river or your own pool if you happen to have one. Swimming is an excellent way to exercise humans and it works for dogs as well.

The key to all of this is to get your dog up and busy. If your dog has a job or is exercised well you will have less problems with it at home.

Remember what I have been saying forever, "a trained dog is a happy dog and an exhausted dog is even happier". So get out there and do something fun with your dog.

5 Common Dog Behavior Problems :

If you are a dog owner then at sometime or another you've experienced some type of behavior problems with your dogs. In this part we will talk about 5 of the most common dog behavior problems.

1. Okay let's start with jumping. You may have a dog that's jumping on you, on the kids, or maybe visitors that come to your home. No matter what, jumping can be very annoying and actually dangerous when it comes to small children or senior citizens.

2. Barking is another problem that you may have experienced. It seems that most people don't mind their dog barking to let them know that somebody is at the door or even somebody is outside that shouldn't be. However none of us want that nonstop barking that annoys the neighbors and keeps you from being able to enjoy the peace and quiet of home. Teaching your dog to stop barking on command is the answer.

3. House training is another huge issue for some people. If your dog has not been properly house trained then your dog is probably soiling in your home. Let's face it that just isn't acceptable. In fact the lack of house training is the number one reason dogs end up in shelters.

4. Chewing is one of those habits that we want to eliminate quickly. If you have a puppy that's chewing on things you'll have an adult that does the same thing unless you break that habit early.

5. Digging can be very annoying and dangerous for your dog. Dogs dig for different reasons sometimes just out of boredom, other times to find cool ground, and other times to escape under the fence. Digging holes in your backyard can be very unsightly but digging holes under the fence can be dangerous because your dog can escape and possibly get run over.

I'm sure you're asking now that we've identified some of the common behavior issues how do we solve them. The answer is actually very simple, training and behavior modification. It's amazing but behavior problems all seem to disappear if your dog is obedience trained.

Other problems will require some behavior modification. What is behavior modification? Simply changing the way you do some things at home with your dog so that it is able to learn better habits.

If your dog is suffering from these common behavior problems simply read this ebook from [HERE](#) that can guide you through the steps to eliminate the issues.

Chapter 2 : Dog Health

A Healthy Dog - 9 Area's To Keep An Eye On :

Keeping a dog healthy and content is neither as easy nor as difficult as many people think. What it takes is an owner who is willing to devote the necessary time and energy to exercise, train, groom, and attend to the other needs of their pet. Conscientious dog care actually begins before you buy the dog, by realistically evaluating the time you have to spend on a dog and opting for a breed whose needs do not outstrip your resources. Good dog care is the dog owner's responsibility. A healthy dog requires proper nutrition, regular grooming and exercise sessions, training for good behavior, and plenty of love. And don't forget that even a well-cared for, healthy dog needs to be examined and vaccinated regularly by a veterinarian.

Although dogs can't come right out and announce how they feel, the alert owner can always tell something is not quite right by changes in the dog's normal appearance or behavior.

Each dog is unique, with its own characteristics, appearance, and personality. What may be normal for one dog may not be for another; only the dog's owner and veterinarian know what is normal for any one particular dog. Get acquainted with the way your dog acts and looks from day to day. Changes in appearance or behavior could be clues to possible illness. In general, however, the following describes the physical state of a healthy dog.

Signs Of A Healthy Dog:

Skin - Healthy skin is smooth and flexible, ranging from pale pink to brown, or black. Spotted skin is normal in dogs with spotted or solid-color coats. No scales, scabs, growths, or areas of redness should be visible. Dogs have seasonal shedding cycles, which may occasionally change. A healthy coat, however, is glossy and pliable, without dandruff, excessive oiliness, or areas of baldness. Make sure you check to see if your dog has fleas, or other external parasites.

Eyes - A healthy dog has bright, shiny eyes free of excessive watering or discharge. Eyelashes and hair should not rub against the eyeball; this is especially a concern for owners of longhaired breeds. The whites of the eyes should not appear yellowish.

Ears - The outside of the ear flap is covered with hair similar to the rest of the body. The skin inside the dog's ear is light pink, clean, and lightly covered with hair. A small amount of yellow, brown, or black wax may be present in the ear canals, but an

overabundance of this wax is abnormal. Healthy ears do not emit a bad smell, they are not red, swollen, itchy, or painful to the dog, and do not exude a discharge.

Mouth - Healthy gums will appear pink or pigmented (black or spotted) and will feel firm. The edges of healthy gums surround the teeth, which are free from soft white matter and hard white, yellow, or brown material. Your dog should not have unpleasant breath.

Nose - A dog's nose is normally cool and moist. Any secretions from the nose are clear and watery, not cloudy, yellow, or green, thick, or foul smelling. The nose should not be red or irritated.

Temperature - The normal temperature range for a dog is 101-102.5 degrees F (38.3-39.2 degrees C)

Pulse - The heart rate of a healthy dog depends on its size and condition. Normally, the heart beats 50 to 130 times per minute in a resting dog. It is faster in puppies and small dogs, slower in large dogs or those in particularly good physical condition.

Elimination - Urine excreted by a healthy dog is yellow and clear. Most adult dogs move their bowels once or twice a day; the stools are well-formed and generally brown. Large amounts of odorous, loose, or unusually colored stool are abnormal.

Weight - Even if your dog appears fine in every other way, it can't receive a clean bill of health if it is underweight or, more commonly, overweight. Obesity is usually the result of overfeeding and can easily be corrected by changing the dog's diet. An underweight dog, could have internal parasites or other serious health problems. To discover how you can care about your dog's health download this eBook now from [HERE](#) .

Canine Obesity: Steps to a Healthier Dog :

The formula for weight loss is not a complex one, but it is one that you, as the owner, must commit to:

Calories Burned > Calories Ingested = Weight Loss

How Much to Feed

The amount of food each dog requires varies depending on the food's quality and calorie count, as well as your dog's breed, activity level, and metabolism. Start out on the low

side of the recommended portion size listed on the bag and after a couple weeks assess your dog's weight. You can then modify the portion size accordingly.

Steps you can take to prevent overfeeding:

- **Close the buffet** - If your dog has access to food all day, he will eat all day. Instead, feed him a specific amount one to three times a day.
- **Prevent ninjainj** - If you have multiple dogs in your household, feed them separately to guarantee each dog is consuming only their allotment and not stealing your other dogs food.
- **Be consistent** - Use a measuring cup to keep track of how much food your dog eats each day. This helps the entire family stay on the same page when it comes to feeding portion size.

How To Handle Begging

Don't give in to those big brown eyes and pathetic whining! Stand strong. Your dog doesn't know that excessive amounts of food and treats will hurt him and shorten his life expectancy.

That being said, there are a few things you can do to curtail the begging:

1. **Distract him** - Pet or play with him when he starts begging for food. Or better yet, take him for a walk. This is a win/win. Not only does he not get the extra calories, but he also burns a few.
2. **Feed him small meals more frequently** - This doesn't mean feed him more food each day, just break up his daily portion into two or three meals.
3. **Give him low-calorie, crunchy vegetables** - Baby carrots, broccoli, celery, and string beans, as well as apple, watermelon, and mango pieces, make good treats. Some dogs won't be fooled, but others will cheerfully chomp them up.
4. **Offer fresh water** - Water is cool and refreshing and might be exactly what your dog needs.

Treats

It's easy to forget treats when factoring your dog's daily calorie allotment. Did you know that feeding a 40 pound dog a pig ear as a treat is the equivalent of a human eating two double cheeseburgers in addition to regular meals?

To maximize weight loss, find low-calorie, appropriately-sized treat for daily use and save the high-calorie ones for special occasions. **Treats should never make up more than 10% of your dog's diet** and if he's overweight, it should be even less.

Exercise

We all know that a balanced diet combined with exercise is the most efficient way to lose weight, so in addition to regulating your dog's diet, **you should also exercise him for 15 to 20 minutes at least twice a day**. This means anything from a brisk walk around the neighborhood to an invigorating game of fetch in the back yard. If your dog is obese, start with short walks and work up to longer excursions.

You can also get involved in a dog sport like agility or herding. The physical and mental stimulation will do him good and the shared activity will help you build a stronger bond. Quite often, your dog will find this more rewarding than a treat.

Summary...

Remember: You have all the power in this relationship. By taking responsibility for your dog's health and controlling his weight, you are helping him become a healthier and happier animal.

Get Healthy With Your Dogs Help :

You're probably asking how can my dog help make me healthy. Simply put he can get you off the couch and outside for a long walk or an afternoon of throwing a ball or a toy for retrieval games.

I think that everybody knows that it is a proven well documented fact that people who own dogs live longer. That isn't just because you own a dog it is because it gives you something to care for and be active with.

In fact another well documented fact is that people with dogs have better mental health as well. Of course I think we have all known at least 1 wacko in our lives that had a dog so there are exceptions to that rule.

So let's talk about some things you can do to get healthier with your dog.

1. Go for a daily walk. Walking 10,000 steps a day will go a long way to keeping you healthy. A one hour walk will give me 5500 to 6000 steps so I am well on the way to the 10,000 steps that I have for a daily goal.

2. Get involved in some type of dog sport. If losing weight is a goal of yours then you may want to consider agility training. Agility training involves all types of jumps and obstacles for your dog. You are running along with your dog and getting some great exercise.
3. If you feel that your dog may have what it takes to be a search and rescue dog you may want to consider joining a local SAR group. Your dog may be used for detection work as a cadaver dog or possibly for tracking a lost child. Getting involved with an SAR group will get you up and moving for the training as well as any real emergency situation.
4. Get involved with A.K.C. obedience trials with your dog if you both enjoy doing obedience. There are literally dog shows all over the country each and every week-end.
5. A.K.C. also now offers tracking competition. So if obedience is not your dog's thing but it has a good nose then tracking just may be what you both need.

As you can see there are a bunch of different things you can do with your dog to get you healthier and to keep you that way. A dog can make you happier and one thing to remember is that a nice dog can be a great way to meet the opposite sex. That's right your next partner may just be that person that approaches and asks about your dog. Good luck!

Keep Your Dog Healthy And Give Him The Right Dog Supplements :

Do you really care for the sake of your pet dog? Most of the time, pets are best friends who help make our lives sweeter. Hence, if you would like take care of your best friend, give him the right dog supplements which will make him healthy and happy.

Dog supplements are generally extra vitamins added to any dog food like this vitamins [here](#) . Therefore, it is possible to help your dog grow strong and healthy and by improving his immune system. If you care enough for your best friend, you'll offer the best food nutrition. Minerals and vitamins are usually basic additives and together with regular food will make you're your pet live a healthy, long life.

Dog supplements come in various sorts available in any pet store. You'll probably decide powder, to mix it with regular food, or liquid to mix it with your dogs water.

Choose the best treatment for your pet and give him the right attention. Hence, you will keep him energetic and healthy. His hair will certainly glow with his fantastic bone structure will stay strong if you buy the right dog supplements.

Think about his best interest by simply taking care of your pet dog. Select the right diet and keep him energetic and lively.

Due to the fact that normal dog food doesn't have the right quantity of vitamins and minerals you must find the perfect solution to maintain your dog healthy. Therefore, dog supplements will be the right decision. Now you are able to pay attention to your pet and give him the right treatment. You can make his life much better and longer where he can be happy and stay healthy.

Extend your canines life and keep him energetic. Pay for the sufficient dog supplements and create a safer environment for your pet. The Right vitamins can create balance for his immune system which will definitely make him stronger.

Why disregard your pets wellness when he is part of your family? Now you are able to help him and treat him like your own. Supply him the right dog supplements; improve the quality of his life and he will continue to make you happy.

4 Factors to Avoid When Selecting A Veterinarian For Your Dog In Indianapolis :

Indianapolis vet clinic Indianapolis are for the most part reliable, but some veterinarians just might not be right for your dog. Here are four factors to avoid when choosing a veterinarian in Indianapolis:

1) Insufficient Facilities

Indianapolis vet clinic Indianapolis facilities should be clean, up-to date and comprehensive. You need to be able to know that your veterinarian can handle any type of care, from routine vaccinations to emergencies and even end-of-life care at a convenient city location. And facilities must be clean and well-maintained. A clinic that is not properly cleaned and disinfected is a danger to your dog's well-being.

2) Insufficient Experience

Your dog is not a guinea pig! Make sure your veterinarian has sufficient experience in

treating dogs. Some veterinarians may have limited clinical experience and are not recommended unless supervised by a senior vet.

3) Insufficient Compassion and Caring

A dog is a true companion, and your vet should understand that she is caring for a living being that you consider part of the family. She should express clear interest in dogs and their well-being, and should be professional without being aloof or condescending. A vet who is an experienced dog owner is your best choice among vets in Indianapolis.

4) Insufficient Recommendations

Make sure you get enough unbiased recommendations for any Indianapolis vet clinic or veterinarians that you are considering for your dog. Be prepared for any emergency by asking fellow dog owners whom they rely on to provide expert veterinary care for their dogs.

Pet Dental Care Tips :

Your pets should receive regular dental care at home in order to avoid the onset of any dental disease. It has been observed that the pets that are given regular dental care at home rarely develop dental diseases. You can also get your pet some dog dental treats so that your dog does not start chewing things that they should not.

Even if you can take out few minutes a day, you can utilize it to provide oral care to your pets because it is not a very time consuming task. You can also order some cat accessories online in order to make things easier for you. This small investment of your money and time would save you a lot of money that you would have to spend in case your pet develops dental problems.

To start with, you should make sure that your pet's teeth are brushed and cleaned regularly. You can order some soft brushes for your pet from cat toys shop India. This would make sure that anything stuck in your pet's teeth is removed and they stay healthy. Secondly, you should offer your pet some dog dental treats. These treats keep your pet calm and also ensure that any additional plaque is removed. They also massage your pet's gums.

Pets usually create a lot of fuss when you are cleaning their teeth. The secret of keeping them calm during this time is to make them comfortable on some cat furniture India. While your pet is seated comfortably, you can use that opportunity to give your pet some much needed dental care.

While you are brushing your pet's teeth, make sure that you do it thoroughly. It is important that you do this job with patience and clean even the hard to reach areas. You can use special toothpastes meant only for pets. These toothpastes are easily available at cat toys shop India and ensure that your pet does not suffer from bad breath. Bad breath is a common problem in pets and it can become really irritating for the people around. To handle this problem you can also use some pet breath fresheners, easily available at pet stores.

You should also take your pet regularly to the veterinary doctor in order to ensure that you are doing everything right. A regular checkup from the doctor would also ensure that there is no risk of developing a dental disease.

The Different Common Disease in Dogs :

Lithe and lissome and brimming with energy, it's all too easy to imagine that dogs get by without a health-care in the world .But of course, just like any other species - not least humans - there are all manner of ailments that can beset canines .They can get virus-related diseases as well as genetic disorders and cancer from the environment .Similar to human, health problems of dogs can simply be associated with their lifestyle. We all know that when we are inactive and have poor diet, our health gets affected in a negative way and this also holds true to dogs; the usual end results are heart problem and diabetes .Finally, just as with humans, canine old age brings its own set of health issues, from arthritis to failing eyesight.

Fortunately, if dogs have much in common with people in the diversity of health problems they can potentially face, they also benefit from vast advances in medical knowledge and care.

At present we are more aware of various ailments that affect dogs than we did several years ago and with this knowledge dog-owners can detect the initial indications of the ailment and be able to take the necessary preventive actions.

Corona virus

The most known intestinal bacteria which besets puppies is the corona virus .It is commonly dispersed through the feces of sick dogs like other viruses and other dogs get it through infected areas or by direct contact with an ill dog.

Thank goodness, the ailment is not that serious - somewhat like a passing of a belly bug .However, it can hit younger puppies hard .Watch out for diarrhea with a sudden onset .Your puppy may shows signs of being sluggish and weary; it may also lose its appetite and you may notice that its feces is very soft and foul. The color of the feces of your puppy may be in orange and smell stinky and watery; your puppy may have symptoms of being lazy, listless and its interest in food has decreased .If the symptoms don't clear up quickly it's time to contact a vet .Sadly treatment for the virus is not available- it just has to go its normal way .However, there are potential secondary impacts - severe diarrhea always carries the risk of severe dehydration, so intravenous fluids are sometimes needed in extreme cases .There is the threat of secondary infections too thus it is of importance to administer antibiotics .Providing the proper treatment and assistance from a vet dogs luckily do a full recovery and are soon in their usual old selves in no time. There's no vaccination for the virus, and the best way to guard against it is cleanliness, particularly if there are other dogs around.

Dog Hair Loss And Demodectic Mange Symptoms, Causes and Treatment :

If your dog has patchy or sparse hair coats, the first thing that you should do is check for the presence of mites. Go around your pet's body and examine the places where these parasites are hiding.

The problem is not all mites can be seen by the naked eye. There are mites that require the use of size enlargers such as microscopes and magnifying glasses to be seen. One type is the microscopic demodectic mites and because there is the appearance of mites, this type of mites should be one of your main suspects.

Demodectic Mites

The patches can be caused by the presence of demodectic mites, dog parasites which feed right at the victim's hair follicles. This can be the reason why the disease can make all the hair strands fall over time. Demodectic mites are the ones responsible for demodectic mange, a skin disease that can happen to any dog breed.

Mange means inflammation and is usually characterized by the reddening and thickening of the affected skin part. Those patches can get inflamed and can make the skin susceptible to bacterial infection. In advanced cases, there is no single hair strand left and the entire body is inflamed.

More Symptoms

Aside from the patches and the inflammation, things to check are:

• The animal has developed an obnoxious and unhealthy odor. Multiple washings with detergent and water would not be able to eliminate the detestable smell.

• Check the animal's ears. They are waxy and might be showing signs of infection. Veterinarians call this type of infection as ceruminous otitis.

Causes

The main cause for having demodectic mites and developing demodectic mange is not clear. What we have for now is that puppies can get infected by their mother and that all dogs are susceptible to the disease.

In addition, the disease seems to cure itself and many experts say that it is because a victim's immune system can stop the reproduction of these mites and kill them all within 6 - 12 months. Older dogs are more resistant to the mites and if ever a mature dog develops the disease, it is usually assumed that there is another sickness that has caused the dog's immune system to weaken.

There is also evidence that suggests there is a genetic factor to the disease. Anybody who intends to take home a puppy should therefore inquire with the seller or giver first if its ancestors had suffered from demodectic mange.

Treatment

Demodectic mange is a controllable disease and an infected animal can easily get rid of the patches in a matter of months. Should the problem persist, it's time to see a veterinarian. The vet might give any of the following medications: moxidectin, milbemycin, ivermectin, amitraz dip, doramectin and antibiotics.

Antibiotics are administered because dogs with demodectic mange are susceptible to bacterial infections. Don't Treat the Dog with Indifference To speed up recovery, you must provide good nutrition to your dog, give him an environment that is not taxing or worrying, and try your best to make him live a happy life.

The disease cannot infect humans, so don't treat him coldly. Give him the usual hugs and kisses. This article is not a substitute for veterinarian advice. If you are in any doubt or have any concerns about the health of your dog you may wish to consult with a professional for diagnosis and treatment

You and Your Dog's Weight

Weight problems are not uncommon in our canine companions, and dog owners usually find it difficult to keep their overweight pets in shape. Modern feeding methods can sometimes add extra weight, as well as the many misconceptions owners have about how much and how often they should feed their dogs.

First, you have to consider how much food your pet actually requires. To fully comprehend our canine friends' needs, we have to look at how wild dogs survive and what they eat .

In the wild, dogs live on rabbits, rodents, berries, and by scavenging. They only eat once a day on average, sometimes two to three days between meals. Domestic dogs' systems are built on this same pattern of eating.

If we feed our dogs every day, they will store fat for lean times. However, if there is no lean time, they will only get fatter and fatter. Hence, feeding them two to three times a day will lead to obesity.

An adult dog needs only one average size meal per day, and ideally should completely abstain from food one day per week to help burn excess fat. Canines should not be given sweets as these will only increase their risk of obesity.

Grown dogs should not be given cow's milk, as it is far too rich and can cause gastric issues. However, if you would still like to give your dog some milk, go for the special brands of dog milk, which can be bought at supermarkets. If your pet is overweight, be aware of how much you give him.

Several folks believe that desexing causes obesity in dogs. This is not completely true, since it is only the animal's interest in food that increases after desexing. Owners of desexed canines should keep their pet's food intake the same as before. Instead, you can offer raw bones, which will satisfy even the hungriest dog without adding any fat.

Various brands of diet dog food, which can help your pooch lose weight, are also available. Bear in mind that dogs that are the right weight tend to live longer and have a more active and enjoyable life.

5 Different Ways To Exercise Your Dog :

Is your dog overweight? Are you overweight? Do you and your dog need some good exercise? Well here are five different ways that you can help your dog exercise and at the same time help you as well. Exercise is something that is required for man and beast so why not do it together.

1. Are you a swimmer, what about your dog? Swimming is an excellent way for both of you to get exercise without any trauma to the joints. If you don't have your own swimming pool of course there's always the local river or lake where you can both enjoy a splash and get some exercise at the same time.

2. The most common way for people get exercise for themselves and their dog is by going for a walk. You can walk through the neighborhood with your dog however some

people feel that's a little boring. If you're one of those people you might try going for a hike. Simply throw the dog in the car and go to a local park that may have some great hiking trails. Be sure and take plenty of water for you and your dog as well.

3. Are you a jogger? In fact maybe you're preparing for the upcoming 5K. Well there simply isn't a better jogging partner than your dog. However remember you may have to condition him the same way you conditioned yourself to get to the 5K level. Once he's able to do that distance I think you'll have a happy dog and will see some great results from the jogging.

4. Biking is another exercise that could include your dog. You may want to consider one of the attachments that actually attaches to your bike and keep your dog in the proper position on your ride. Just like with the running or jogging be sure to condition your dog to prepare for this type of exercise.

5. Last but not least if your dog enjoys chasing a ball, go out and throw that ball for your dog. In fact you can sit under the shade tree sipping on your Ice-T while your dog retrieves and gets plenty of exercise. Of course if you have a dog that enjoys the Frisbee you can do the same thing with the Frisbee as well.

Keep in mind while exercising your dog to consider his overall physical condition don't try to do too much too fast which can cause problems. Also remember that a puppy should not be doing as much running, jumping, etc. as an adult dog because we don't want to do anything that could damage joints and bon

Chapter 3 : Dog Food

How Much Food Should I Give My Dog?

You would think that feeding your dog would be the easiest part of your responsibilities as a dog owner. Wrong again! You'll need to make some decisions and that means you may have to do some homework.

First of all are we talking about a puppy or and adult dog? That will make a difference as to the amount of dog food required. When thinking in terms of food, puppies are typically considered adults at the age of 1 year at which time you would switch to adult food. If there's any doubt or concern about this, or if you just want to be safe, consult your Vet. Your Vet is a fabulous resource for any questions you may have and it's always a great idea to consult with him/her on anything concerning your precious pet.

For obvious reasons, the proper feeding of your dog is extremely important. Over feed and you put your pet at risk for obesity and serious health issues. Under feed and you end up causing a problem dog that chews on toys, books, etc. and steals food off the counter or table and is constantly into the garbage.

How often should you feed your dog?

Next decision... regular scheduled feeding or free feeding. Free feeding means that you keep food in the puppies bowl all the time and he/she eats whenever their hungry. There are different schools of thought regarding free feeding. Some Veterinarians feel this is the best option for your puppy because they're growing quickly and may require more food one day than another. Others suggest feeding your puppy about 4 times each day.

My personal vote goes with the later. Here's why... Free feeding your dog can be difficult if you have other pets (trying to keep the other pets away from it). Then, when your puppy becomes an adult, one short year later, you'll need to retrain your dog to eat only once or twice each day. If you continue to free feed your dog throughout adulthood, you are setting the stage for an overweight dog and likely serious health issues.

Having said all of this, my recommendation would be to feed your puppy 4-6 times each day. They're little and have lots of energy. They need to eat often to fuel their little bodies and mature properly. Maintain a regular time schedule for feeding, and leave the food available for 15-20 minutes. Then take it away. If your puppy is hungry he'll eat, if not he'll have another opportunity in a few hours. Upon adulthood reduce the feedings to 1-2 times each day.

You'll notice that there are no absolute answers to the number of times each day to feed your dog. That's because there are so many variables involved in determining the answer; age, size, breed, how much exercise does your dog get, is your dog underweight now or overweight, how many treats does he/she get each day. Each of these points need to be considered before deciding how often to feed your pet. I absolutely recommend that you consult with... guess who? Say it with me... your Veterinarian! He/she can help you set up the perfect schedule for your pet.

What about that People food thing? Okay? Or not so okay?

The answer is... not so okay. Truth be told, in moderation, some people food is harmless. However there are some foods that can be very harmful to your pet. For instance it isn't a good idea to trim the fat off your meat and feed it to your dog. This kind of fat overload can give your dog pancreatitis which causes chronic abdominal pains.

Ham & bacon are too salty and contain too much fat. This can cause your pet to have pancreatitis and, in some breeds, could ultimately result in bloat. Bloat is a potentially life-threatening condition arising from your dog drinking too much water from the salty food.

Large amounts of liver can cause vitamin A toxicity. This is serious because it affects the muscles and can cause deformed bones. Because vitamin A also has an impact on the metabolism, severe weight loss and anorexia is also a concern.

Any dairy products like butter, cheese, and milk are harmful to your dog. They weren't designed to eat these types of food so their bodies can't digest them properly. The consumption of these products could cause bloating and diarrhea in your pet.

Bones, particularly small bones from chicken and fish can get lodged in your pets' throat which can cause choking. Bones can also cause splinter and tear a dog's internal organs.

Cat food is much higher in fats and protein than dog food. Just like baby food, dog and cat food is designed with the specific needs of each animal in mind. The extra fat is not healthy for your dog and eating cat food instead of dog food means that your pet is missing essential nutrients for his/her health. That's why it's called Dog Food and Cat Food, not Pet Food.

Chocolate and caffeine are toxic to dogs and negatively affects their heart and nervous system. Chocolate can cause seizures, coma and ultimately death. One 1 ounce of baking chocolate can poison a 10-pound dog. There are different kinds of chocolate some not as toxic as others. But let's face it... does it matter? None of them are good for your pooch, so a BIG no on this treat.

Of course there's the obvious... drugs and alcohol are absolute no no's. You might find it comical to watch a tipsy dog, but I'm sure that you will not see the humour in knowing that the alcohol you gave him put your precious pet into a coma and possibly resulted in his death.

There are many other people foods that can cause serious health issues for your dog. There is enough evidence that many foods are harmful for your pooch that the simplest solution is to just NOT feed your dog people food at all. Another bonus to this solution is that you will not have a dog that begs for food while you eat at the table. There are so many treats that have been designed especially for your pet that it really just makes sense to stick to those. What should you feed your dog?

Which is the best for your dog, dry food or canned food? That's the great debate. There are pros and cons to both, so... let's make a list:

Dry Dog Food Pros :

Helps keep dogs teeth clean from tartar

More nutritious

Dogs have better breath

Easier to store

Easier to handle

More cost effective

Less likely to spoil

Wet Dog Food Pros :

More proteins included

Contains fewer preservatives

Contains less grain and more moisture keeps a dog hydrated and benefits the urinary tract

Is very flavourful, often the preferred taste for dogs

May be better if your dog has certain health issues

Dry Dog Food Cons :

Not all dry foods are quality foods

Usually has more preservatives

Wet Dog Food Cons :

Sticks on dogs teeth causing tooth problems

Requires more dental treatments

Gives dogs bad breath

More expensive

Less healthy because it contains a higher fat content and more water

Once opened canned food can spoil quickly

Now that we've gone over the list of pros and cons, let me say that absolutely nothing is carved in stone. Your dog may have a health issue that requires him to eat canned instead of dry. For example, dogs that have lost their chewing teeth or have dental disease may not be able to chew dry dog food, and may only be able to eat canned food. I fostered a dog once that would only eat her dry dog food with 2 tablespoons of canned food mixed in.

You will find that some experts promote canned food for puppies and switch to dry food for adult dogs. The obstacle with this is that it's difficult to make the switch.

You may have a dog that is a really picky eater or one that gulps his food with the speed of light and then throws up. These dogs need your help. Work out a plan with your Vet. This article was not meant to have all the answers. It was intended to give you some things to think about. It's not as simple as "grab a bag of dog food from the store" and we're good to go. As a responsible pet parent, you've got some things to think about. Now, talk to your Vet, ask your questions (be sure to ask for the rationale behind the thought), and together build your strategy. Want to discover the dog food secrets download this eBook now from [HERE](#).

Above all else, remember to hug your pet today.

Which Protein Is Best For Your Dog?

It's an age old question when it comes to dog food. Should I feed a chicken, beef, lamb or vegetarian based dog food? In fact today there is even a bunch more proteins to choose from when selecting your dog's food.

Personally I think I have gravitated to chicken based products over the years but I did that without really making a conscious decision to do so. It just happened that way.

One thing that I have found is that if we have a dog that develops allergies the first thing I do is switch foods. Yes if your dog is eating a beef based food and develops an allergy switch to chicken. If you are feeding chicken then try feeding lamb. I have found that the biggest percentage of times the allergy or even ear infection is caused by what you are feeding and a quick change can make all the difference in the world for your dog.

Over the years as my dogs have matured and become senior citizens I have seen some dogs that never had an allergy develop a food allergy in their older years. Usually when this happens with a senior dog I switch to a hypoallergenic dog food such as venison. I even had one dog that had to go to a vegetarian food to keep from having ear infections.

I have also seen a couple of kennel and training facilities that were feeding a fish based product but they actually needed to cook beef and vegetables to add to the food in order to give adequate protein to the food. My question was why are you feeding this product if it doesn't have the needed nutrition for the dogs. The owner told me that the fish based product actually kept down the odor of feces in the kennel.

I don't know about you but for me having to cook for 60 dogs each and every meal is more work that I want to do.

The final thing I would like to talk about is raw food. There are those dog lovers out there that feel raw is the only way to go. They actually will purchase raw food that includes the guts and organs from cows from rendering plants. I have never fed raw food but I do know many people who do and swear by it. They feel that this raw material is the best possible food for their dogs.

Dog Food: What's in a Label?

When you pick up a bag of dog food, there are three different places you can look for information about the ingredients: the front label, the guaranteed analysis, and the ingredient list. Understanding what the bag is trying to tell you though, is not as simple as you might think.

Decoding the Label

The FDA has put certain regulations into effect to control how dog food is labeled. This can make determining the general meat content of your dog food easier, but the differences are subtle:

- Naming the meat specifically (e.g. Beef for Dogs) translates to at least 95% meat.
- Using phrases such as "Dinner," "Formula," "Platter," etc (e.g. Beef Dinner for Dogs) translates to between 25% to 95% meat.
- Using "with" (e.g. Dog Food with Beef) translates to at least 3.0% meat.
- Using "Flavor" (e.g. Beef Flavored Dog Food) has no set % of meat. It just needs to be a measurable amount.

There are also a myriad of words such as Gourmet, Premium, Holistic, and Human Grade, which have no legal definition when applied to dog food marketing. This means dog food companies can use these terms whether their products are truly superior or not.

De-Emphasizing the Guaranteed Analysis

The guaranteed analysis provides the minimum or maximum percentages of at least four vital nutrients:

1. Crude Protein (minimum): Necessary for all aspects of growth and development as well as for maintaining the immune system.
2. Crude Fat (minimum): Necessary for the absorption, storage, and transportation of fat soluble vitamins as well as providing vital fatty acids.
3. Crude Fiber (maximum): Improves colon health and helps stabilize blood sugar levels.

4. **Moisture (maximum):** To accurately compare nutrient percentages between dog foods, they must have the same moisture level. This means you'll need to do some math before comparing protein levels between wet and dry foods.

The problem with the guaranteed analysis is that the categories are all very broad. For instance, the crude protein percentage includes all protein regardless of quality, type or digestibility. It could be derived from either bison meat, chicken bones, or corn. This is significant because a lower percentage of protein is acceptable if it's derived from a quality source, such as lamb meat.

According to one study, if you blended together a pair of old leather boots (protein), some motor oil (fat), and a scoop of sawdust (fiber) you would receive the following food analysis: Protein: 32%, Fat: 18%, Fiber: 3%. The numbers are great, but no one in their right mind would want to eat it!

So, how do you determine the quality of the protein listed in the guaranteed analysis? You look at the ingredients of course.

Deciphering the Ingredient List

The ingredient list is the best source of information about the quality of your dog food, but there's also a trick to reading it.

Items are listed in order of weight *prior* to being added to the formula. This includes their inherent water content, so an item such as meat, which is approximately 75% water, can be placed deceptively high on the ingredient list. The water is removed during the kibbling process so the actual physical presence of meat in the kibble is significantly lower. This is why it's so important meat be the first ingredient of the food.

Be careful though, some companies will list meat as their first ingredient and then follow it up with three different kinds of corn (whole grain corn, corn meal, corn bran, etc). In this situation, the corn content is actually higher than the meat content.

In Summary...

Pay attention to the phrasing on the label, but ignore the gimmicky words and pretty pictures. The guaranteed analysis is a useful tool, but not necessarily an accurate representation of nutritional value. The best indicator of a dog foods quality is the ingredient list, so be sure to read it carefully.

Dog Food: Meat vs Meat Meal :

When it comes to meat in kibbled dog foods, there are two options: meat or meat meal. They sound deceptively similar, but the discrepancy in quality between the two can be extreme.

So what's the difference?

Let's look at how the AAFCO defines these ingredients:

- **Meat:** "clean flesh of slaughtered mammals and is limited to... the striate muscle... with or without the accompanying and overlying fat and the portions of the skin, sinew, nerve and blood vessels which normally accompany the flesh."
- **Meat meal:** "the rendered product from mammal tissues, exclusive of any added blood, hair, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents."

The definition of meat is rather straightforward, but that of meat meal requires a bit more explanation. There are two terms which are particularly important: rendered and mammal tissue.

Rendering refers to a process where tissue is cooked, removing all moisture, and then ground into a fine high-protein powder which is later baked. It is essentially a way of recycling amino acids from waste products. During rendering all bacteria, viruses, and parasites present in the source material are killed which allows meal producers to use 4D (dead, dying, diseased, or disabled) animals as meal ingredients. The possibility of this inclusion is why meat meal is never considered fit for human consumption.

Mammal tissue is a broad concept which can include bone, organs, glands, and cartilage. In and of themselves, these ingredients are not bad. The meal quality depends on the raw materials initially used: some are created from high-grade meats and organs while others are created from the garbage tissues of diseased animals.

It is interesting to note the large human food companies are often the major providers of pet food. For instance:

- M&M Mars/Proctor & Gamble own Iams, Eukanuba, Evo, Innova, Pedigree, and Royal Canin
- Nestle owns Purina and Alpo
- Colgate-Palmolive owns Hills Science Diet
- Del Monte owns Kibbles N Bits, Pup-peroni, and Natural Recipes.

Why? Because it allows them to render the waste products from the human food industries and utilize the resulting meal in dog food. They make money on product they would otherwise throw away.

The question now becomes: how can you tell if your dog food has high quality meat meal in it or if the meal was made from spoiled supermarket meats and chicken feet? Unfortunately, when we pick up a bag of dog food, we have no way to determine the quality of the included meat meal.

While we can't know exactly which products to avoid, there are some red flags:

- Avoid meat meals that do not specify the source animal (i.e. poultry meal vs chicken meal; animal meal vs lamb meal)
- Avoid meals that include the term 'by-product' (i.e. chicken by-product meal)

In Summary ...

Look for a dog food that lists a specific meat as the first ingredient and meat meal somewhere farther down the list, if at all. Meat meal is not inherently bad, but its quality is always suspect.

Dog Food: The Corn Controversy :

Corn made its debut in dog foods during the 1950's when the kibbling process was first developed by the Ralston Purina Company. They borrowed an extruder from their Chex cereal facility, put it to use making dog food, and gave rise to new era in pet food.

The kibbling process they developed requires the dough to contain a large quantity of starch, otherwise the mixture wont gelatinize. The starchy carbohydrates (potatoes, corn, and other grains) were prime candidates. Corn received first billing in kibble because it was relative cheap and there was a lot of it to be had.

Today, most of the cheaper dog foods and many of the more expensive ones feature corn as an ingredient--a fact that has caused innumerable debates between dog food companies, dog trainers/breeders, and veterinarians.

The Controversy

The lines are clearly drawn. The pro-corn side of this controversy will tell you corn is a wonderful ingredient with a low glycemic index, oodles of wonderful minerals and vitamins, and also serves as an exceptional source of protein. The anti-corn side argues corn is a cheap and useless filler that causes multitudes of health and behavior issues.

So, is corn a super food? Or is it one step from toxicity?

The Good

Corn is no better or worse than other carbohydrates in terms of its glycemic index, mineral content, or nutrient balance.

The Bad

The most obvious problem with corn is easily measured by counting the number of piles you clean up from your lawn. Corn is high in fiber and is also very difficult for dogs to digest unless it's been thoroughly processed (which unfortunately increases the glycemic index). What is not digested properly will promptly be deposited in your backyard.

The Ugly

While corn possesses a relatively high level of protein for a carbohydrate, it has nowhere near enough to replace meat as the primary ingredient. It also lacks certain necessary amino acids.

For instance, when compared to other sources of protein such as chicken or salmon, corn has particularly low levels of tryptophan, which is a precursor to serotonin. Therefore, when corn serves as the primary protein source (i.e. in the top three ingredients), it can have a distinctly negative impact on animals sensitive to serotonergic under activity. Serotonin levels impact mood regulation, appetite, sleep, muscle contraction, and even cognitive functions such as memory and learning.

One last thing to take into consideration: fats are the best source of energy for your dog. As a carbohydrate, corn is mostly fat-free. Carbohydrates provide intense bursts of energy (think 'sugar buzz') whereas fats provide a more moderate steady stream of energy throughout the day.

In Summary...

Corn is not a 'bad' ingredient, but it certainly should *not* be the main ingredient. Feeding a corn-based diet can potentially lead to a moody dog with an irregular appetite, large bowel movements, insomnia, aggression issues, sporadic energy bursts, and a short memory. This results in a pet who can be very challenging to live with!

Dog Nutrition: Why You Should Never Give Food Scraps to Your Dog ?

I tend to find the scene both funny and very cute and I bet most dog owners do too. Having you dog sit by your side at the table and look at you with those adoring and "I didn't do it" eyes usually makes anyone melt, but there is another side of the coin to know about because of its incredible importance in your dog's health and life.

I have known for years from friends, neighbors and all kinds of acquaintances that they give their dogs all kinds of foods these like, including sodas and even alcohol. Sometimes I have felt sick just listening to the amount of mistakes dog owners make believing they are doing the right thing.

Dogs' digestive system is definitely not like ours, so just using this as a starting point, it would be logical to believe dog nutrition cannot be the same. We season our foods to our tastes and needs, using all kinds of condiments, spices and everything imaginable to make them tasteful and good for us, but those same spices and other ingredients we put in our food can cause tremendous harm to our dog's digestive tract, causing for example, bad breath, gas and loose stools, among other complications. Why provoke distress to a being we say we love?

If we also consider the fact that giving our dogs the extra calories that come from fatty table scraps will certainly produce weight gain, it is important to remember that overweight dogs are always at a much higher risk of presenting complications such as diabetes, heart disease and other unwanted illnesses such as pancreatitis. Their healthy diets should be based on a high protein ingestion, although many dog foods also include vegetables today.

Many dog owners are not familiar with the fact that there are many foods they should **never** feed to their dogs, such as chocolate and dairy products. We typically use onions to make our foods taste better, but these can be poisonous to the dog, including the powder form. If we condiment our food with onions and then give our dog scraps containing it, what can be expected?

We may face difficulties sometimes digesting certain foods, and dogs are not different in that sense. They don't know that, so if you give corn or sugar, you can expect them to be tough on the dog's digestive system. This also includes potatoes, lunch meats and other condiments that are high in sugar content.

We are used to thinking dogs love bones, and that is true, but when we give them meat products that contain bones in them, these can break and puncture the throat, stomach

or intestines. This happens to humans too, so keep it in mind. If they block the digestive path, constipation may be the result. Oh, yes, licking the bone is probably a very satisfactory experience for the dog, but that should be the end of it. If the bone starts cracking, that is the time to remove it.

Many dog foods are prepared for the dog's digestive system and give them the correct nutrition they need, but there are also special recipes you can prepare at home for your dog that have been said to even help them not only live healthier, but also longer lives.

Jumping from the physical to the psychological aspect of giving your dog the table scraps while you are having dinner, do remember that if you do it, the dog will interpret this as a reward for his asking, so you would then have to be prepared for this behavior to repeat itself every time you sit at the table. Although it may seem cute as I mentioned previously, that scene is not adequate and should not present itself. You have your time for dinner and they should have theirs, apart from each other.

We do use food as a way to reinforce the behavior we want from our dogs, no matter where we want it to manifest itself (home, neighborhood, shows, etc.), but this should always be used when we are training our dog and not just because. There are many good treats you can give your dog when doing this instead of feeding it what will undoubtedly produce harm, even if delicious.

Remember it is your responsibility to choose the right nutrition for your dogs. If left to them, there is no end to what they find attractive to their taste without knowing what the consequences may be.

Organic Dog Food - Pros and Cons :

Pet owners who want the best for their dogs often choose organic food instead of regular food, but is this really the right choice? Should pet owners like you solely rely on the commercials of big pet food brands or should you look into choosing a more organic diet for your dog?

There are several advantages and disadvantages of organic food that every concerned dog owner should keep in mind. If you care about the well-being of your dog, it's important to look at the pros and cons of your choice.

Advantages

The most obvious advantage is the nutritious quality of the food itself. Commercial pet food brands commonly use something known as "filler" ingredients, which are additives and preservatives that you definitely would not find in organic dog food. When your dog

eats organic food, he is much more likely to properly absorb all the nutrients and minerals as opposed to standard dog food.

Secondly, organic dog food is packed full of vitamins such as: Vitamin E, Vitamin C, and many others. Regular pet foods are often missing important vitamins and nutrients.

So why does this matter?

The nutrition and vitamin profile of your dog's food can have a significant impact on the stamina and energy level of your dog. A good diet of organic dog food can also improve his resistance to allergies, illnesses, and overall disease.

Usually, organic food is also free of harmful and dangerous byproducts, which can be dangerous for your pet's health.

An article in the Daily Mail talks to several nutrition experts on the subject. These experts claim that many large pet food brands are selling food which is unfit for dogs. They say that the food produced by these big brands can shorten your dog's lifespan by up to a year.

Disadvantages

Because you're paying for higher quality ingredients, organic dog food (and any organic food, really) will definitely end up costing you more. On average, each healthy organic meal will end up costing you around a dollar more per serving.

Another disadvantage about organic dog food is that it is much less commonly available than most commercial dog foods. Where you could easily find commercial food at your local grocery store, you may have to look online or at specialty pet stores to find good organic food for your dog.

Finally, organic food has not been proven to be scientifically better for your dog than regular commercial food. However, studies have proven that a high quality diet will play an important role in cardiovascular, bone, joint health, and helps prevent disease.

What should I do for my dog?

Every dog owner should think very carefully about these pros and cons. Many people (incorrectly) assume that the big brands on TV are the best foods that you can get for your dog.

Unfortunately, this is just not true. As a responsible dog owner, you should pay attention to the individual ingredients of whatever you are feeding your pets to make sure there is nothing harmful to its health.

If you love your dog and want to make that extra investment into keeping your dog healthy, we strongly recommend choosing high quality and healthy food. In the long run, this will result in reduced health costs and a better quality of life for your dog.

FAQs About Dog Food Allergies :

What is food allergy?

This is a condition that occurs when a dog's immune system mistakenly identifies a particular food ingredient as harmful and as a result it creates defensive antibodies that try to fight the invading enemy (food).

What are the signs of food allergy?

The signs tend to differ from one dog to the other; however, the most common symptoms include: hives, skin rash, paw biting, itching, and obsessive licking. In some cases the dog can have nausea and vomiting.

What is the difference between food intolerance and food allergy?

Food intolerance is a digestive problem. Here the dog's digestive system is usually unable to digest specific ingredients in food. On the other hand food allergy is an immune response where the body produces antibodies that try to fight food in the body.

What are the signs of food intolerance?

The signs are majorly those brought about by digestive distress. They include gas, bloating nausea, diarrhea and vomiting.

Does the quality of the food determine whether the dog will develop an allergic reaction?

As mentioned, allergies are usually related to the pet's own immune system and they are not brought about by the problems in the product. This means that if a dog is allergic to a given ingredient, it will experience the same unfavorable reaction to the ingredient regardless of the food brand that it's given.

What are the major ingredients that bring about allergies?

The major culprits that bring about the condition are: beef, dairy, chicken, lamb, fish, corn, soy, yeast, and wheat.

Are all allergies brought about by food?

No. There are other causes of allergies. For example, the dog can be allergic to environment or to certain soaps.

What should you give your dog if you suspect that its allergic reaction is brought about by food?

There are many food recipes that are designed to aid in controlling the condition. The most effective ones are hypoallergenic foods that contain limited and novel ingredients.

These foods contain fewer components; therefore, they don't affect the dog. The foods also contain relatively obscure ingredients such as buffalo, kangaroo, millet, and pheasant that are healthy to the dog.

If you can't get the hypoallergenic dog foods, you should consider using grain free dog food.

What should you do if you give the dog the hypoallergenic foods and the dog continues developing allergy?

The best thing to do is to contact your vet and ask him/her for advice. Sometimes you may be required to take the dog to the vet's office.

Top 5 Reasons Why Your Canine Babies Need Puppy Beds :

Taking home a new puppy home triggers all the fatherly and motherly instinct in every animal lover. One might even go in a shopping frenzy to buy their puppy a new collar, leash, bowls for food and water, some toys, and grooming supplies. If you are making a list, check it twice and make sure you have a puppy bed on there.

While the puppy crate or kennel will do while houstraining your dog, it will eventually be over this stage and you need a dog bed where it can get a good, long snooze everyday.

puppy beds are often overlooked by pet owners thinking that their fluffy friend can sleep on their own beds, on the sofa, or maybe carpet. However, these spots might not

be comfortable enough for your canine buddy that's why experts encourage people to get beds for dogs.

Below are the top five reasons why you need to get a pet bed:

1. Dog beds provide insulation

Just like a baby, your puppy needs to be protected from the heat and cold. If the floors at home tend to be cold, a Snooza Ottoman, for example, will provide the elevation needed while making your puppy feel secure in his new, favorite spot.

Puppy beds ensure that your puppy's body temperature is well regulated and this contributes to the overall health of your dog.

2. Sense of security

It will take a while before your puppy gets used to your home, family members, and daily routines. A puppy bed will provide the much needed private space it deserves. Snooza dog beds, one of the leading dog beds on sale today, have different shapes and sizes to answer various needs of different dog breeds. What dog beds Australia you need to get will depend on the traits and personality of your puppy.

3. You don't want hair all over your place

Cleaning hair and dander at home will be okay for the first few days but it will eventually take a lot of time and mess with your schedule as your dog grows. Pet beds will ensure that you only have one spot to clean on a regular basis. You can get Snooza dog beds that are made of denim or tough fabric so you can brush them clean of hair or wash them to keep them smelling fresh for your puppy.

4. Avoid injuries and illness

Just like human babies, baby dogs are quite fragile. Jumping from the height of your bed or from any furniture puts them at risk of hurting themselves. The injury may range from a sprain, fracture, or even worse when you hear that big thud as it lands on the floor. A good, comfy puppy bed will just have the right height where they can safely jump on and off.

Puppy beds such as Snooza dog beds provide firm support to ensure the comfort of your puppy's back and its limbs.

5. Make your puppy happy

There are simple and affordable pet beds and there are even luxury dog beds but what is important is that it will provide a good space for your pet to relax in. A dog that has a nice pet bed to sleep in will be a happy dog.

How To Choose Unique Dog Names That You And Your Pet Will Love :

One of the most anticipated parts of getting a new dog is giving it a name. You spend a lot of time thinking about a unique dog name. You can always go for the common names such as Max, Buddy, Lady, Sam, Lucy and others. The problem with choosing a common name for your dog is that when you are in a park there will be several dogs there with the same name as your dog. This is why it is better to go for unique dog names.

A unique way to name your dog is to name him or her after your favorite character from a book or movie. Unique male dog names would be Hercules after a mythological

character, Mustang after your favorite car or the name of the lead star of your favorite show on television. For unique female dog names, you can name your dog after your favorite fairytale character or after the heroine from a novel or movie.

When thinking of unique dog names, you also have to make sure that the name suits your dog. Do not go overboard in making a unique name even if it does not suit the personality and appearance of your dog. In as much as you want to pick a unique name, you also have to make sure that it is a good one because it will be your dog's name for life.

It is also important to make sure that you pick dog names that you will be comfortable using. You want to be able to call out your dog in a huge crowd and not get embarrassed about it. This is why you should avoid using novelty dog names. They may sound fun and interesting, but you may feel embarrassed about calling out your dog in public.

A useful tip for picking unique dog names is to wait for a few days after bringing home your dog. It is a lot easier to observe your dog at home. Look for characteristics that will serve as your inspiration in naming your dog. If your dog loves to run around really fast, then you can name him Speedy. If he loves to chew on things like a rat then you can call him Mickey. It would be fun telling your friends how your dog got his or her name.

The internet is a great place to search for unique dog names. You can browse through a long list of names on various websites and choose several options. Once you have made a list of possible names for your dog, it is also important to try each one out. Say the name out loud and see if it sounds silly or not. You can also try to call out the dog with the name and see if he likes it. Your dog may remain aloof as you try out the names and then suddenly raise his head or wag his tail as you call out a name. That is a great sign that your dog loves that name. It is his name after all, so it is also important that he likes it.

First Aid Tips for Dog Owners :

Your dog deserves the best care from you as an owner. However many owners are confused when it comes to emergencies that concerns their pets. Having first aid knowledge for your dog could be useful at the right time. It is important to know what to do. If the situation arises where your dog needs medical help or some sort of first aid assistance, then it will be up to you to provide the care that your dog needs. The first aid below is only a small sample and does not cover every situation.

Constipation: A dog, which is constipated, fails to empty its bowels and the waste matter is absorbed back into the blood stream. Constipation should be treated with Agaroll or a

similar purgative. If this treatment does not cure the condition, veterinary advice will be necessary.

Coughs: Coughing in dogs may be caused by an obstruction of the throat in which case removal of the obstruction will prevent further coughing. Dogs with heart or lung disorders may cough as a result of these disorders.

Diarrhea: Frequent passage of abnormally soft feces is known as diarrhea. While the most common cause is incorrect feeding, it can also be a symptom of distemper, gastroenteritis or worms. Dogs with diarrhea should be placed on a diet of carbohydrates and dosed with Kao Magna. If symptoms persist, veterinary advice should be sought.

Dermatitis: Dermatitis can be caused by allergies to plants, pollens, soaps and external parasites. It can also be a result of incorrect diet, lack of exercise or infection of minor skin irritations. The initial symptoms are small patches of red skin, which are extremely itchy. These progress to become small blisters. At this stage they may dry up and disappear, but in most untreated cases they burst, the fluid spreads and this causes fresh sores. These sores become filled with pus, which spreads even further. As some types of dermatitis are contagious, dogs showing symptoms should be isolated. The area surrounding the infection should be shaved and the sores gently washed with an antibacterial skin cleanser. An antibiotic spray or lotion should be applied three times daily. As the skin heals, an ointment such as Propamidine should be applied daily in severe cases; veterinary treatment may be necessary.

Heat Exhaustion:

The main causes of heat exhaustion in dogs are:

- Excessive work in high temperature.
- Exposure to hot sun without cover being available
- Hot, poorly ventilated kennel conditions.

The symptoms of heat exhaustion are:

- Excessive panting and salivating.
- Loss of energy,
- Staggering gait,

- Rapid pulse, and
- Very high temperature

Treatment - for the condition consists of:

- Removal of the dog to a cool, airy position,
- Application of cold water to the entire body and ice to the head and neck
- Supply of drinking water to which honey or glucose has been added.

All cases of heat exhaustion must be reported to the veterinary surgeon as soon as possible. It's also important that you must have some sort of first aid kit or medical equipment with you so that you're prepared in the event that something does happen to your dog.

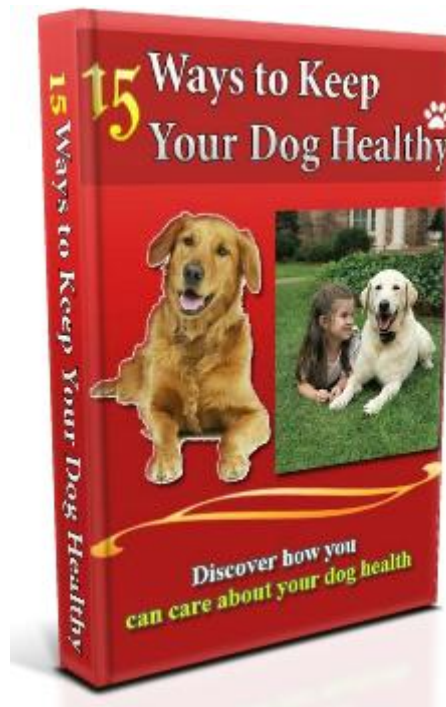
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