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How to Select Food for your Puppy



There are numerous options available when it comes to selecting dog food, and it can be overwhelming to determine which formula is best for your dog. How do you know which formula is best for your dog?

Here are some simple steps to help you compare dog food brands and formulas.

1. Start With the Basics

Consider several basic factors that will guide your dog food comparison process, such as your dog's breed, age, size, and activity levels.

Also consider your dog's age and life stage. Puppies need specific nutrients like DHA to help with their development. Around age one (or two for large/giant breeds), you should transition your puppy to an adult dog food.

Purina brands offering puppy food formulas include:

- Puppy Chow
- Purina ONE
- Pro Plan

2. Consider Dog Food Ingredient Preferences

Many consumers are interested in new and varied options for their dogs. If you're interested in exploring natural or grain-free options, there are countless varieties available.

You may want to consider novel proteins like duck for your puppy such as the **Purina ONE True Instinct Puppy food with Real Chicken & Duck**

If you're looking for natural ingredients, real meat as the first ingredient or grain-free in dog food, Purina dog food brands with these in their formula include:

- **Beneful** - All dry dog food formulas include accents of real fruits or veggies. Great taste with no artificial flavors with the **Incredibites** formula catered specifically for small breed dogs. While wet dog food is available in a variety of textures and flavors your dog will love. With real meat, poultry or fish and veggies you can see in paté and chunky recipes with savoury sauces and gravies.
- **Purina ONE** - From the very first day, you've helped your dog become the best they can be. With the proven nutrition of Purina ONE premium dog food, you'll see visible differences from Day ONE, from mealtime excitement to healthy energy and strong muscles, including a healthy heart. Purina® ONE® Formulas Are Veterinarian Recommended
- **Pro Plan** - There's a reason Pro Plan is the trusted food of champions. From a breakthrough formula that helps promote mental sharpness, to gentle formulas for sensitive skin and stomachs, Pro Plan offers the most advanced nutrition for your dog's best life.

If you aren't sure which of these your dog would benefit from, talk with a veterinarian.

3. Consider Form and Flavour

In addition to formula preference, consider your dog's preferences when it comes to form and flavour. Some dogs prefer wet food, dry kibble, or a combination of the two.

When it comes to flavour, figure out what your dog likes best. Some dogs love beef while others prefer chicken, lamb or even fish. There are a lot of different meat options in dog food, so you should have no trouble finding something your dog loves.

4. What Benefits Are You Looking For?

Once you've narrowed your dog food comparisons down based on the above considerations, think about your dog's unique needs and the benefits you want to see.

For many dogs, a general, all-purpose maintenance formula may suffice. In other cases, you may want a dog food to nutritionally support a unique need, such as weight management or athletic performance.

For example, **puppy foods formulated for large and giant breeds** may have elevated levels of glucosamine to help support healthy cartilage and joint mobility. **Sensitive skin and stomach formulas** may provide easily digestible ingredients and elevated nutrients for the skin. Other dog food formulas now include **probiotics to support digestive health.**

5. Healthy Dog Food Meets AAFCO Nutrient Profile Standards



The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) sets standards for nutrient profiles for pet foods for a particular life stage. Dog (and cat) foods must meet these standards to claim they are 100 percent complete and balanced for the life stage of the dog shown on the package.

You can easily tell if the food(s) you are evaluating meets these standards by checking the package for the AAFCO statement either a side panel or the back of the package beneath the ingredients list. You'll see it written one of two ways:

- {Name of Product} is formulated to meet the nutritional levels established by the AAFCO dog nutrient profiles for {dog life stage}.
- Animal feeding tests using AAFCO procedures substantiate that {Name of Product} provides complete and balanced nutrition for {dog life stage}.

All Purina dog foods are complete and balanced for the life stage indicated on the package. In fact, we have our own standards that meet or, in many cases, exceed those set by AACO and other regulatory agencies. Our high standards are based on our extensive internal research into quality pet nutrition.

Now that you know how to compare dog food, you can explore and compare **Purina's dog food brands and formulas here**.