

A woman wearing a white lab coat and a blue and white plaid shirt is smiling and looking at a golden retriever puppy. She is holding a pink bowl filled with dog food. The puppy is looking up at her with its tongue out. The background is a kitchen with wooden cabinets and a green countertop.

DIET & FEEDING

Diet

The following companies have shown a commitment to creating diets that are ideal for our pets, and thus you can feel confident in offering them to your puppy: Hill's (aka Science Diet), Royal Canin, Iams (aka Eukanuba) and Purina. These four companies make both prescription diets as well as non-prescription diets. Prescription diets are of the highest nutritional quality and are generally purchased through a veterinary office and are often intended to help specific medical concerns. Should you choose another brand, please check the food label to make sure the food has been tested by AAFCO "feeding trials"; be careful if the label simply says the diet has been formulated to meet AAFCO "standards", as this often implies the manufacturer may not have even thoroughly evaluated the diet.

Feeding

We recommend feeding your puppy three times daily until they are large enough to prevent a crisis caused by low blood sugar. For small breed dogs, this usually means feeding them three (or more) times per day until they are at least four (to even six) months of age; for medium or larger breed dogs, most can be weaned to a twice daily feeding schedule around three months of age. As a general rule of thumb, similar to humans, eating several small meals per day has more metabolic benefits than eating a single meal; therefore, we encourage clients to feed their pets at least two or three smaller meals per day, throughout their entire lives.