



### Remember...

...NEVER feed your puppy chocolate. This is extremely dangerous for dogs.

### Avoid...

Sweet biscuits:

- These are high in fat, low in nutritional value.

Raw or cooked bones (especially cooked from meat and poultry):

- These can splinter and may stick in the throat or intestine. They could also damage teeth and may cause constipation.

Grapes, onion and garlic:

- These can be dangerous for dogs.

Your puppy's breeder will probably have given you a diet sheet; these can vary from very sensible to very unsuitable, including raw/cooked mince, scrambled egg and most commonly weetabix and milk. Cow's milk is not suitable for dogs and often causes tummy upsets and skin problems.

## Feeding and Nutrition

There is a huge variety in the quality, digestibility and consistency of pet foods. The foods vets recommend themselves will be based on the importance diet has in preventing many common ailments and diseases. It is important that a dog receives a balanced, nutritional diet.

Fat, protein and minerals like calcium and phosphorus help build strong bones and muscles. They also provide plenty of energy for growth and play.

Puppies come in many different shapes and sizes, their nutritional needs can vary. Some puppy products are specially formulated to ensure they get all the nutrition they need to grow healthy and strong, no matter how big or small.

The food you choose to feed your puppy during the first year is critical to his adult development.

Our general advice is to get your puppy onto a good quality dry food, which meets the needs at that stage of life. Cheaper foods tend to include lots of fibre resulting

in lots of poo to clear up. Although the better foods cost more, by needing smaller portions, they are usually more economical to use. Tinned foods can be as much as 80% water and work out more expensive. Using dry food is convenient and hygienic. Also, part of the daily ration can be used as treats and rewards. Dry food can be moistened if you wish and fresh water must be readily available at all times. Dry food can also help in keeping your dog's teeth clean.

When you feed is also very important. A young puppy requires several small meals per day.

Your puppy and adult dog should be encouraged to settle after a meal. Exercise and energetic play before or just after a meal can, especially in deep-chested breeds, cause the stomach to twist over itself (gastric torsion). This is life threatening and requires immediate emergency treatment.

Our veterinary team will be pleased to discuss your puppy's dietary needs.