



Guide Dogs for the Blind

PUPPY RAISING NUTRITIONAL POLICY

We appreciate the cooperation of all raisers and leaders in complying with the following puppy raising nutritional policy.

Research has shown, and GDB experience concurs, that effective weight management of puppies and mature dogs through the feeding of large breed diets or proper management of feeding amounts helps limit certain canine orthopedic maladies and promotes general health and longevity. Puppy club leaders and Community Field Representatives (CFRs) will educate raisers on feeding puppies, and proper weight and body conditioning.

At the GDB puppy kennel, prior to placement in a raiser home, puppies are fed Pro Plan Focus Puppy Large Breed Formula.

Raisers will feed a puppy formula from the list below until the puppy reaches a year of age. Foods are listed alphabetically. Preferred foods are in bold italics; alternative foods are in standard font.

At a year of age, or when the CFR recommends, raisers will transition to an approved adult formula. Natural Balance Lamb Meal and Brown Rice LID (Limited Ingredient Diets) is fed to dogs in training on campus.

Approved Puppy Diets

- *Eukanuba Large Breed Puppy*
- *Hills Science Diet Puppy Large Breed Lamb Meal and Rice*
- *Iams Proactive Health Smart Puppy Large Breed*
- *Natural Balance Lamb Meal and Rice Puppy LID (Limited Ingredient Diets)*
- Nutro MAX Natural Chicken Meal & Rice Recipe Large Breed Puppy Food
- Nutro Natural Choice Chicken Whole Brown Rice and Oatmeal Large Breed Puppy Food
- Nutro Ultra Dry Puppy Food
- Pedigree Complete Nutrition Puppy Crunchy Bites
- *Purina One Smartblend Large Breed Puppy Formula*
- *Purina Pro Plan Focus Puppy Large Breed Formula*
- Purina Puppy Chow
- Tractor Supply 4health Puppy Food

Approved Adult Diets

- *Eukanuba Large Breed Adult*
- *Hills Science Diet Adult Large Breed Lamb Meal and Rice*
- *Iams Proactive Health Adult Large Breed*
- *Natural Balance Lamb Meal and Rice Adult LID (Limited Ingredient Diets)*
- Nutro MAX Natural Chicken Meal & Rice Recipe Large Breed Adult Food

- Nutro Ultra Large Breed Adult Dry Dog Food
- Nutro Natural Choice Chicken Whole Brown Rice and Oatmeal Large Breed Young Adult Dog Food
- Pedigree Large Breed Nutrition
- Purina Dog Chow
- *Purina One Smartblend Large Breed Adult Formula*
- *Purina Pro Plan Focus Adult Large Breed Formula*

For Overweight Dogs

With the approval of the CFR, overweight dogs may be fed one of the following diets:

- Natural Balance Fat Dogs
- Eukanuba Weight Control

In selecting these foods, GDB has attempted to provide raisers with a wide selection based on cost and availability. GDB believes that these foods meet our nutritional expectations. Puppy raisers may find, though, that each food may yield different results in attributes such as amount fed and stool number, firmness, and volume.

If your puppy is not doing well on one of the approved formulas, have your leader speak to your CFR, who can evaluate your puppy's individual needs and make additional suggestions in feeding schedules, home behavior monitoring, feeding amounts, and diets. Whenever a puppy's diet is changed, raisers should gradually transition to the new diet over a period of 5 – 7 days, gradually replacing the previous food with the new one.

Raisers will start feeding 8-week-old pups 1 cup, 3 times a day and then slowly increase the amount of food following instructions given by their leaders. At your first puppy meeting, ask your leader when and how much to increase your puppy's food. Because each puppy is different, it may require different feeding amounts than what is listed on the puppy food bag or in this policy. At four months of age your puppy should be weaned off his midday meal and fed twice per day. Continue feeding twice per day until your puppy returns to campus for formal training.

At GDB's determination, variations may occur in the above policy guidelines for a variety of reasons, including:

- The special needs of individual dogs under the supervision of or in consultation with the GDB Veterinary Clinic
- Future research in canine nutrition
- Further knowledge gained by GDB through GDB conducted food trials or other research

Water Access Guidelines

Puppies should have easy access to an unlimited amount of fresh, clean water. Free access to water is preferred, but when this is not practical it is acceptable to offer fresh water frequently throughout the day (minimum of 8 times per day, more frequently in hot temperatures).

It is not appropriate to limit the daily amount of water offered to a puppy unless directed by a veterinarian for a specific purpose (e.g. pre-surgical fasting or treatment of acute vomiting). Water is an essential nutrient for dogs. Limiting the supply of this essential nutrient can cause significant health concerns including life-threatening dehydration. This risk is especially concerning for younger puppies because their kidneys are not fully developed and functional until 4-5 months of age.

Raisers are advised to monitor the drinking and relieving pattern for each puppy. Changes in water consumption or frequency of relieving are sometimes indicative of a medical condition that needs to be addressed. Raisers with concerns about the volume of water their puppy is consuming, or concerns about changes in their puppy's drinking or relieving patterns should bring this to the attention of their leader. We ask that leaders alert their CFR if there are any concerns regarding water consumption. CFRs will work with GDB veterinarians in cases where possible underlying medical concerns are suspected. The amount of water offered to a puppy each day should not be limited unless directed to do so by GDB veterinarians.