



Great Dane Diets

Sources for our diet section include:

www.whole-dog-journal.com

www.dogfoodproject.com

www.dogfoodadvisor.com

The Author of this section, Sacha Packer has completed a certificate in Advanced Nutrition (Advanced Pet Nutritional Advisor) from Waltham.

No one is in a better position than you are to decide which food you should feed your dog.

That may not be what you wanted to hear. You may have been hoping that someone would reveal to you the name of the Australia's healthiest food, so you could just buy that and have it done with.

But dogs, just like people, are individuals. What works for this dog won't work for that one. A Pointer who goes jogging with his marathon-running owner every day needs a lot more calories than the Great Dane who watches TV all day.

The diet that contains enough fat to keep that sled dog warm through an Alaskan winter would kill that Miniature Poodle who suffers from pancreatitis. The commercial kibble that stopped your neighbours Border Collie's itching and scratching in its tracks may cause your other neighbours Bedlington Terrier to develop copper storage disease.

Every food on the market contains different ingredients, and each one has the potential to cause symptoms of allergy or intolerance in some dogs.

Every food contains a different ratio of macronutrients – protein, fat, and carbohydrates – and you have to learn by trial and error which ratio works best for your dog. Each product contains varying amounts of vitamins and minerals, and though most fall within the ranges considered, some may be in excess of, or deficient to your dog's needs.

So how do you choose?

The starting place

Well, you have to start somewhere, and you undoubtedly have. Your dog is eating something already.

Our goal is to help you identify the foods with the best-quality ingredients – whole meats, vegetables, fruits, and grains, and high-quality sources of dietary fat – to get you into the right “ballpark” in terms of quality. Then you have to start individualised feeding trials on your dog.

Start by assessing your dog's health. Take a sheet of paper and make a list with two columns: one for health problems, and one for health assets. Any conditions for which she receives veterinary care or

medications go in the “problems” column. Other conditions that should be listed here include bad breath; teeth that are prone to tartar build up; chronically goopy eyes; infection-prone or stinky ears; a smelly, greasy, flaky, or thinning coat; itchy paws; excessive gas; recurrent diarrhoea, constipation, or incontinence; repeated infestations of worms or fleas; low or excessive energy; and a sudden onset of antisocial or aggressive behaviour.

In the health assets column, list all the health characteristics that your dog has in her favour, such as fresh breath, clean teeth, bright eyes, clean ears, a lack of itching, a glossy coat, problem-free elimination, a normal appetite and energy level, and a good attitude.

If there are a lot more assets on your list than problems, and the problems are very minor, you may have already found a diet that works well for your dog. But if your list reveals a lot more problems than assets, your dog is a good candidate for a change of diet – in addition to an examination and some guidance from a good veterinarian.

Now take a look at the food you are currently feeding your dog. Note the food’s ingredients, as well as its protein and fat levels, and its caloric content. Write all of this down, so you can make logical adjustments if need be.

Nutritional management of disease

Just two decades ago, it was considered fairly radical to propose that canine diseases could be treated, at least in part, by manipulating the dogs diets. Today, the increasing availability of “prescription” diets is the big story in the pet food industry.

If your dog has any sort of disease or an inherited propensity for disease, ask your veterinarian about the benefits of nutritional therapy to help treat or prevent the disease. Don’t settle for the suggestion of a commercial “prescription” diet; most of them are formulated with lower-quality ingredients.

Instead, ask what specifically in the diet has been manipulated so as to be beneficial for your dog. Then, see if you can find a product that offers the same benefits and better-quality ingredients. The best example is a “kidney” diet for dogs with kidney failure. The goal is to feed these patients a diet with a moderate level of very high-quality protein and low amounts of phosphorus.

An intelligently formulated home-prepared diet can do a far better job of accomplishing these goals than the commercial diets on the market (not recommended in Great Danes Puppies).

You should also do some research on your own to determine what dietary changes might help your dog. A good starting place is Donald R. Strombeck’s Home-Prepared Dog & Cat Diets: The Healthful Alternative (available by order in bookstores, and from www.Amazon.com and www.DogWise.com). Dr. Strombeck details strategies for changing the dog’s diet to treat and/or prevent gastrointestinal, skin, skeletal and joint, renal, urinary, endocrine, heart, pancreatic, and hepatic disease.

Other diseases that can be improved with dietary management include:

- **Allergy or intolerance.** There are a number of breeds that are particularly susceptible to food allergies, including Great Danes. Again, it's important to keep a record of what foods you feed your dog, what they contain, and how your dog looks and feels.

If your records indicate that one or more ingredients trigger bad reactions in your dog, seek out foods that do not contain those ingredients in any amount.

- **Cancer.** High-fat, low-carbohydrate (or carb-free) diets are ideal for cancer patients. Cancer cells use carbs for energy, and don't easily utilise fat, so you can effectively "starve" the cancer cells while providing extra energy to your dog with a diet rich in a high-quality fat sources.

Caloric considerations

Another thing you have to consider is the caloric content of the food you choose. If the food you select for your dog is energy-dense, and your dog is a couch potato, you may have to cut her daily ration considerably to prevent her from getting fat.

Some dogs respond to forced dieting with begging, counter-surfing, and garbage-raiding. If your dog is one of these, you may have to seek out a high-fibre, low-calorie food – one that may not necessarily contain the highest-quality protein or fat sources on the market – to keep your dog feeling contentedly full without getting fat.

Dogs exhibit a wide range of energy requirements. You may have to seek out a higher – or lower – calorie food based on the following attributes that can affect your dog's energy needs:

- **Activity level.** The more a dog exercises the more energy she needs to consume to maintain his condition; it's that simple.

- **Growth.** Growing puppies have higher energy requirements than adult dogs. A food with a higher protein level, but a moderate (not high) fat level is ideal. Obese puppies are far more prone to degenerative joint disease – especially in large and giant breeds – than puppies with a normal or slim physique.

- **Age.** The age at which a dog becomes a senior citizen varies from breed to breed, with larger dogs considered geriatric at earlier ages. Older dogs typically require fewer calories to maintain their body weight and condition, partly because they tend to be less active than younger dogs.

- **Environmental conditions.** Dogs that live or spend much of their time outside in severe cold temperatures need from 10 percent to as much as 90 percent more energy than dogs who enjoy a temperate climate.

The thickness and quality of the dog's coat, the amount of body fat she has, and the quality of her shelter have direct effects on the dog's energy needs.

- **Illness.** Sick dogs have increased energy needs; it takes energy to mount an immune response or repair tissues. However, dogs who do not feel well also tend to be inactive, which lowers their energy needs.

- **Reproduction.** A pregnant female's energy requirement does not increase significantly until the final third of her pregnancy, when it may increase by a factor of three.
- **Lactation.** A nursing female may require as much as eight times as much energy as a female of the same age and condition who is not nursing.
- **Neutering.** It is generally accepted that neutered (and spayed) dogs have reduced energy needs. However, there are actually no studies that conclusively prove that neutered dogs require fewer calories simply as a result of lower hormone levels. It has been suggested that these dogs gain weight due to increased appetites and/or decreased activity levels.
- **Other individual factors.** Other factors that can affect a dog's energy requirement include its temperament (nervous or placid?) and skin, fat, and coat quality (how well he is insulated against weather conditions).

Human factors

Finally, there are the human factors that may influence your dog-food purchasing decision, such as cost and local availability. Understand that there is a connection between the quality of an animal's food and her health, and do the best you can do.

Puppy Diets

When you purchase a Great Dane puppy from a breeder they should provide you with a diet sheet that tells you what the breeder would like you to feed your puppy.

The breeder recommendation is generally based on what kibble they have used before that did the job in their opinion. It is ideal to keep feeding what they say for at least the first 12 months of your Great Danes life unless you feel it would be a detriment to the dog's growth/health – you should discuss this with the breeder.

If you would prefer to feed a different kibble to your dog than what your Breeder has recommended please check with them first. Most breeders are more than happy to discuss alternatives with their puppy buyers.

If you suspect your breeder may not be knowledgeable about diets for Great Dane puppies, you can start to research and go from there.

Beware: Not all Vets are familiar with the dietary needs of Great Dane puppies and may tell you to put your dog on an all breeds puppy food or give calcium supplements.

If you do not think your Vet understands Great Danes, contact your State's Breed Club or an online Australian Dane group such as [Aussie Danes](#) or [Danes Downunder](#) and ask for a Vet recommendation.

Things to avoid:

- Avoid soaking your puppy's kibble in boiling hot water as this will destroy the proteins and the pro-biotics.
- 8 week old puppies do not need their food soaked and many don't like it. It's up to you whether you would like to soak your puppy's food or not. If you do, soak it in luke-warm water for at least half an hour prior to feeding.
- Avoid feeding your entire dog's food in one sitting. Great Dane puppies should be fed 2-3 times per day. Adult Danes should be fed 2 times per day.
- Avoid adding anything to the kibble unless you know it will not unbalance the ratios (that need to be adhered to for growing giant puppies). Most kibbles allow for 20% mince meat to be added. There is no need to add Eggs or Puppy Milk. Your breeder will guide you through what 'extras' they use.

The Protein Myth

Source: Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, 1999, Growth and skeletal development in *Great Dane* pups fed different levels of protein intake. Nap RC, Hazewinkel HA, Voorhout G, Van den Brom WE, [Goedegebuure SA](#), Van 'T Klooster AT.

It was once thought that Great Dane puppies should not be fed higher protein levels than 26%.

Clinical studies from the 1970's and more recently actually show that protein levels are not what cause Great Dane puppies to have growth deformations; it is actually the calcium and phosphorus ratios.

It is recommended to keep the **calcium at or below 1.2%, and phosphorus at or below 0.9%**. Then it is believed that the pup will grow more evenly and have fewer risks of bone and joint issues.

The following is an abstract from the clinical paper on the subject.

Feeding a dog of a large breed with a diet exceeding the National Research Council (1974) recommendations for energy, protein, calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D may result in disturbances of skeletal development.

The effects of excess energy and various calcium: phosphorous ratios per se have been reported by others.

The role of dietary protein, especially with regard to calcium metabolism and skeletal development, in large breed-dogs is reported in this article.

Seventeen Great Dane pups, 7 wk of age, were divided into three groups.

During 18 wk each group received isoenergetic dry food (approximately 15 kJ metabolizable energy/g) containing 31.6, 23.1 or 14.6% protein on dry matter basis.

No differences were found among the high (H-Pr), normal (N-Pr) and low protein (L-Pr) groups for the height at the shoulder.

Significant differences were found between the H-Pr and L-Pr groups for body weight and plasma albumin and among all three groups for plasma urea.

The differences in protein intake per se had no demonstrable consequences for calcium metabolism and skeletal development.

A causative role for dietary protein in the development of osteochondrosis in dogs is unlikely.

The Calcium Myth

New owners of Giant breed puppies often overdose with Calcium, assuming they are doing the right thing.

Surplus Calcium in the presence of a natural amount of vitamin D causes metabolism disorders in the organism and hampers its normal growth.

If you are feeding a correct Ca:Ph ratio kibble then you do not need to supplement with calcium.

Calcium supplements should only be given when an experienced Great Dane Vet and your Breeder agree it is the right thing to do.

The following is an abstract from the clinical paper on the subject.

Source: Effects of diets with different calcium and phosphorus contents on the skeletal development and blood chemistry of growing great danes. December 2000, Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. [Schoenmakers I](#), [Hazewinkel HA](#), [Voorhout G](#), Carlson CS, [Richardson D](#).

The skeletal development of three groups of Great Dane dogs, fed a diet composed according to the published nutritional requirements for dogs (controls) or with increased calcium or calcium and phosphorus content, was examined radiographically, histologically and biochemically.

The diets were fed from the time the dogs first began eating food in addition to their dam's milk, until they were 17 weeks old. Thereafter, the calcium and phosphorus intakes of the dogs in the high calcium groups were normalised for a further 10 weeks.

The dogs fed the high calcium diet without a proportionally high phosphorus intake became hypercalcaemic and hypophosphataemic, and had severe disturbances in skeletal development, growth, and mineralisation which were typical for rickets.

After their calcium intake was normalised the lesions of rickets resolved but osteochondrotic lesions became apparent.

The dogs fed the high calcium and phosphorus diet became slightly hypophosphataemic, their growth was retarded, and they had disturbances in skeletal development resembling osteochondrosis, which had only partly resolved after 10 weeks on the normal calcium and phosphorus diet.

Genetic Height

Height is genetically determined. Feeding your dog more or giving Calcium supplements will not make your Great Dane taller than what it is genetically programmed to be.

Your puppy needs to grow slowly and evenly to grow into a physically sound adult Great Dane.

There is some evidence to suggest that de-sexing physically immature Great Danes will make them taller as their growth plates will sometimes stay open for longer.

The Great Dane is a man-made giant, you do not want an overly tall out of proportion Great Dane as it is not beneficial for their health and longevity.

Grow your Great Dane puppy lean

It is recommended that you grow your Great Dane puppy lean (not skinny). Never allow your puppy to become chubby.

Big-boned Great Dane puppies should be watched very carefully when they are growing to ensure they are kept lean.

What is Big-Boned? Your Breeder will be able to explain this in more detail however in brief it's when you look at the puppies legs and they are very thick and not dainty like.

More weight means more pressure on joints and their rapidly growing skeletal structures which means they can blow their joints as well develop Hip / Elbow Dysplasia.

Protein & Fat

The protein should be made up of high quality, animal-based sources and fat around the 12-14% mark for puppies.

There are a number of kibbles with suitable dietary matrix's to choose from and different breeders recommend different brands.

Development Disorders in Puppies

Source: <http://www.breeders.eukanuba.com.au/science-library/breed-and-size-specific-dog-nutrition>

Research has documented that improper feeding during growth is associated with several skeletal disorders in large and giant breed dogs. About 22% of dogs less than one year of age are affected by developmental skeletal disorders and more than 90% of these cases are influenced by nutrition.

Two nutritional scenarios that can contribute to these disorders are 1) free choice feeding of a diet with excess calories, and 2) supplementation with calcium during the growth phase of the puppy.

The onset of developmental disorders of the bones is usually associated with the rapid growth of the long bones. The most common of these disorders are canine hip dysplasia (CHD), osteochondrosis, and hypertrophic osteodystrophy (HOD).

The Developmental Disorders

Canine hip dysplasia is a complex biomechanical disease of the hip joint. Typically, the surfaces of the hip joint socket and the surface of the head of the femur are not congruent. This results in varying degrees of laxity, or looseness in the joint which, in turn, determines the severity of the condition.

The laxity of the joint can lead to remodeling of the joint with resultant arthritis. Clinical signs vary from severe, crippling lameness at a young age to no signs throughout life. Canine hip dysplasia is caused by many factors. Genetics are very important, as are trauma to the joints and other environmental factors. Of these environmental factors, diet and growth rate are very important, especially between the age of 3 and 8 months.

Puppies with excessive weight gain during this period have a higher frequency of serious changes in the hip joint and resultant degenerative changes in that joint compared to pups that grew at a slower rate.

The osteochondroses, one of which is osteochondritis dissecans (OCD), are characterized by minute disruptions in the maturation of cartilage. While these conditions can occur at multiple points in the skeleton, the most important locations are the shoulder, stifle, hock, and elbow. Osteochondrosis can lead to an acutely inflamed joint or degenerative joint disease involving the cartilage surface.

Osteochondritis dissecans occurs when a tiny divot-like flap of cartilage separates from the underlying bone, exposing the bone to joint fluid. While many factors, such as age, gender, and breed are incriminated in OCD, excess weight gain and supplementation with calcium have received the most attention from a nutritional standpoint. Breeds that commonly exhibit OCD include Great Danes, Labrador Retrievers, Newfoundlands, and Rottweilers.

Hypertrophic osteodystrophy also occurs primarily in large and giant breeds and is characterized by excessive bone deposits and retarded bone resorption near the distal radius, ulna, and tibia. As the disease progresses, soft tissue damage occurs around the large bony deposits. Pain and swelling with concurrent lameness and fluctuating fever is common. Some of these puppies then fail to eat.

Genetics is an important factor in most developmental diseases of the bone. But, if heredity were the only factor, these conditions would have been eradicated long ago through selective breeding. A

heritability coefficient of 40% has been suggested for CHD. This means that about 60% of the influencing factors for CHD are environmental. Of these environmental factors, nutrition is recognized as an important one. While many nutrient classes have been investigated, data indicate, again, that excess calories and excess calcium are the two most important nutritional factors.

Inexperienced owners of large breeds sometimes think, "bigger is better". This can lead to feeding excess calories during the crucial growth phase of the puppy's life.

[Over supplying calories to a puppy can lead to a rapid, but unhealthy rate of growth.](#)

Not only does over-feeding lead to increase in body mass, which can stress growing bones, rapidly growing long bones can be inherently weaker than bones growing at normal rates. The mechanism for the effect of excess calcium is more complex. High dietary calcium leads to high calcium levels in the blood, which stimulates the body's natural mechanism to maintain a normal state.

Through the hormone, calcitonin, the normal maturing of cartilage is slowed and the rate at which bone resorbs calcium is retarded.

Chronic suppression of these functions by excess calcium results in increased thickening of developing bone. This may lead, in turn, to developmental bone and joint problems. In an extensive study conducted in growing Great Danes, over-nutrition was found to be a contributing factor in the development of orthopedic problems.

In this study, puppies fed a calorie-restricted diet had fewer developmental orthopedic problems than did puppies fed unlimited calories. Typical problems observed included enlargement of the rib-cartilage junctions, hyperextension of the carpal joints, enlargement of the growing areas of the long bones, and sinking of the "wrist" joint on front legs and hock on rear legs.

This work has been corroborated in other large breeds as well as other Great Danes since this original study. From a practical standpoint, the adult size of a large breed puppy is determined primarily by genetics, i.e., the size of its parents.

Increasing the caloric intake of a puppy merely increases the rate at which the puppy attains this weight. The puppy that grows at a slower, more appropriate rate will eventually weigh the same as its faster growing littermates, but it will be less likely to develop joint and bone problems.

Another misconception about nutrition and developmental bone problems concerns the role of protein in the diet. The level of this nutrient class in puppy diets has also been implicated as influencing the incidence of these conditions in large breed puppies; however, research has not supported this theory.

[Studies conducted by Nap and colleagues documented that Great Dane puppies fed diets with a range of protein levels \(31.6%, 23.1%, and 14.6%\) from weaning to 18 weeks had no differences in either calcium absorption or developmental bone diseases. Protein is not considered an important factor in the cause of developmental bone diseases in the growing large breed puppy.](#)

Calcium supplementation is another common feeding practice used by inexperienced owners of large breed puppies. Research has documented that excess dietary calcium can negatively influence skeletal development in large and giant breeds. In an 18-month study conducted by The Iams Company and Auburn University, Great Dane puppies were fed one of three diets with levels of dietary calcium of

0.48%, 0.8%, and 2.7%. The pups fed the high-calcium diet accounted for 86% of the lameness found in the study.

Other studies documented that Great Dane puppies were not able to slow down the absorption of excess calcium until they were about seven months of age. Large breed puppies, therefore, should receive adequate but not excessive dietary calcium. From a practical standpoint, a level of 0.8% dietary calcium is beneficial for large and giant breed puppies.

Some breeders and owners attempt to utilize an adult maintenance diet to control calcium and energy intake in rapidly growing puppies. If the adult diet has a typical (1.1%) calcium level, the puppy will still consume excess calcium when fed this type of food. A diet with normal energy levels coupled with lower calcium levels is the ideal for large breed puppy nutrition. This type diet is available commercially as a "large breed puppy" food.

CONCLUSION

The diversity of dog breeds developed by man has led to interesting idiosyncrasies in conformation, personality, and nutritional needs. Breeders and owners can help their breed maintain a healthy lifestyle by utilizing well-researched nutritional findings specific to certain breeds and breed sizes. Small and medium breeds often need a higher calorie level to support higher metabolic rates. All breeds can benefit from a diet that helps manage healthy blood sugar and insulin responses to meal by using barley and sorghum as the primary starch sources. Large and giant breeds need moderate calories and calcium levels during their growing months. Owners and breeders who are familiar with the special health and nutritional needs of their breeds are more likely to supply optimal nutrition to their dogs.

What should you feed your puppy?

When you purchase a Puppy from a Breeder they should give you a diet info pack that will outline their recommendations of what you should feed your puppy. Your Vet may also give you their recommendation which may differ from what your Breeder has advised you so you will need to chat with your Breeder about this.

If you:

- 1) Have purchased a puppy from a Breeder who has not given you a diet info pack;
- 2) Have purchased your puppy from a Rescue/Shelter/Private Seller;
- 3) You would like to research more for your own benefit;

then you may like to use the information contained within to help with your research.

We do not recommend any one diet, however will share with you commercial kibble diets that fall within the recommended dietary matrix for giant breed puppies and also share with you what other Dane puppy owners are feeding, this also is **not to act as a recommendation but to simply assist you with your research.**

Recommended* dietary matrixes for Great Dane puppies:

*Recommended Dietary Matrix from clinical studies & nutrition experts such as the 'Great Dane Lady'.

Different studies/experts suggest that the following dietary matrixes are most ideal for growing Great Dane puppies. Some of these date back to 20–40 years and could be deemed as out of date however because they are/were deemed clinically correct and there is no other data published (that we are aware of) to supersede this information we have included the main 3 below:

Dietry Matrix #1

Protein: Under 26%
Calcium: Approx 0.80%,
Phosphorus: Approx 0.67%
Fat: Approx. 12–14%.

Calc:Phos Ratio: 1.2:1

We have no Kibbles in our Database that match this matrix, the closest one matches in all other regards except for Protein which is 26%: Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed.

Dietry Matrix #2

Calcium: At or below 1.2%
Phosphorus: At or below 0.90%

Calc:Phos Ratio: 1.3:1

We have only 1 Kibble in our Database that matches this matrix which is: Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin.

Dietry Matrix #3

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| Protein: | 23–26% |
| Calcium: | 1.2–1.5% |
| Phosphorus: | Balanced with the Calcium |
| Fat: | 12–16%. |

Calc:Phos Ratio: 1.2:1–1.3:1

We have only 4 Kibbles in our Database that match this matrix which are:

Canidae – Chicken and Rice Formula

Canidae – All Life Stages

Eagle Pack – Pork Meal & Chicken Meal Adult

Earthborn Holistic – Meadow Feast Grain Free

Eeeek what happened to all the other Kibbles and Large/Giant breed formula's often recommended?

We'd love to be able to tell you why they don't fit into the 'recommended matrixes' but we don't actually know.

We have previously attempted to contact a few different kibble companies to talk about this without much luck or when we did get a response it was scripted and didn't really answer the question.

However what we can tell you from our experiences within the Great Dane community both with a number of Breeders and diet savvy pet owners is that many of them simply select a kibble that has a calc:phos ratio of between **1.2:1 and 1.3:1** and that does open up much more choice for puppy owners.

We know the calc:phos ratio is very important to growing Great Dane puppies slowly and evenly (as possible) so this would be a logical choice. We encourage you to do your own research on this topic and if you find something that we haven't be sure to tell us!

We cannot make a recommendation of food but what we can do is provide you with information to consider.

We have 32 Kibbles in our Database that match this 1.2:1–1.3:1phos:calc ratio and they cover all different price points, they are as follows:

Advance Puppy Plus Growth Large Breed

Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato

Canidae – All Life Stages Formula

Canidae – Chicken & Rice

Canidae – Large Breed Puppy – Duck Meal, Brown Rice and Lentils (Coming soon)

Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements

Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea

Dogpro Original Adult Complete

Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult
Eagle Pack – Large Giant Puppy
Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork)
Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion
Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free)
Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed
Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin
Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed
Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food
Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy Health Lamb Meal & Oatmeal
Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice
Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice
Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice
Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New)
Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice
Pro Plan Puppy Original Chicken & Rice
Pro Plan Puppy Original Lamb & Rice
Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy
Supercoat Adult Beef
Supercoat Adult Chicken
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths)
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths)

Please note:

There have been recent changes to some of the Giant Breed Formula's such as Eagle Pack that takes it from a 1.2:1/1.3:1 ratio to a 1.5:1 ratio, therefore you should always be guided by your Breeder and what they believe works best for their lines but being careful that it's not just relative to a monetary reason.

Kibble Ingredients

Before we head into the lists of kibbles and comparisons on different levels, it's important you understand what the ingredients on the label mean.

Why? Because some ingredients in kibbles may not be beneficial to your particular dog i.e. food intolerances or the quality of the ingredient may be low and that's not something you're comfortable feeding or you're on a budget but you want to try and find the best possible ingredients that fit into your budget.

Who decides what's good and what's not?

That's a great question! Discussions on diet is part opinion and part science so we recommend you do your own research and even cross reference the information we provide here to reach your own conclusion.

When opinions clash

It happens a lot when the discussion of diet comes up, for example: A company which produces a kibble with Corn in the top 4 ingredients may give you a rationale about why corn is a beneficial ingredient whereas you would have other groups (both pet and educational/professionals) against the use of corn stating no dog needs corn in their diet as they believe it has no nutritional benefit and it can lead to allergies in dogs. **Who's right?** That's for you to decide 😊

Corn, is it good or bad?

Source: <http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-industry-exposed/dog-food-corn>

As a whole grain, corn is not easily digestible (Approx 54% digestibility rating). Unless the kernel is first refined into a meal or a flour (and then cooked), corn can be very difficult for a dog to digest.

As a matter of fact, corn (and other grains) are only digestible to the extent to which they're processed.

That's why even though the grain may be listed as "whole" on a pet food label, it's nearly always first ground before being cooked into kibble.

There's nothing unique enough about corn's content that makes it a nutritional standout — nothing that can't be found in, or converted from, some other ingredient. Not even protein.

The truth is...

- Carbohydrates are **cheap**
- Carbohydrates are vital to the kibbling process

You won't find corn in commercial dog food because it contributes some unique nutritional property. No, it's there simply because it supplies cheap calories to the product.

And starchy carbohydrates play a critical role in a process known as gelatinization — a process which is absolutely crucial to the workings of kibble machinery.

Source: www.dogfoodproject.com/?page=betterproducts

Corn often gets an undeserved bad reputation. While it is not acceptable as a main source of protein in a dog food (as it is used in combination with corn gluten), as a source of carbohydrates it is no better and no worse than other grains in terms of nutritional value and digestibility.

The starch part of corn is highly digestible but the whole ground product has a higher fiber content than other grains (around 7%), which results in slightly larger stools – often incorrectly interpreted as lack of digestibility.

Unless an individual dog is intolerant or allergic to corn, there is no need to avoid products which include it in reasonable amounts.

Side note: GMO Corn is sometimes used. GMO Corn can be attributed to a number of health concerns such as inflammation in the body, and we recommend that if you feed a diet high in corn to check if GMO corn is used. Many kibble companies will not simply say yes and have scripted answers that don't really give you the answer – be firm and get your answer!

Ingredients to avoid

Source: www.dogfoodproject.com/index.php?page=badingredients

Ingredients are listed by category. This is not a comprehensive list of dangerous and/or poor quality ingredients, but it names most of the ones that are used especially in lower-end foods and should be avoided. The list will change and possibly grow as my research progresses.

| Additives | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Glyceryl Monostearate | <p>A lipophilic non-ionic surfactant with HLB of 3.6 – 4.2. It has effects of emulsification, dispersion, foaming, defoaming, starch anti-aging and fat agglomeration control, and is widely used in foodstuffs, cosmetic, medicine and plastic processing industries. It is an emulsifier used the most widely and in the largest quantities in the foodstuff industry.</p> <p>A thickening, emulsifying, antisticking and antistalant agent. Can contain up to 200 ppm butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) as a preservative (see also BHT). Depending on method of manufacture, it can also contain glyceryl distearate (42–44%), glyceryl tristearate (20–23%), free glycerol (3–5%). Other impurities include mono-, di-, and triesters of related fatty acids as well as unreacted fatty acids. Due to the uncertainty of chemical additives, this ingredient should be avoided.</p> |
| Phosphoric Acid | <p>A clear colorless liquid, H₃PO₄, used in fertilizers, detergents, food flavoring, and pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>A harmless but unnecessary ingredient, used in inexpensive, poor quality dog food as flavoring, emulsifier and discoloration inhibitor. Used for example as a flavoring for Coca Cola.</p> |
| Propylene Glycol | <p>A colorless viscous hygroscopic liquid, CH₃CHOHCH₂OH, used in antifreeze solutions, in hydraulic fluids, and as a solvent.</p> <p>Used as humectant in semi-moist kibble to keep it from drying out. May be toxic if consumed in large amounts, and should definitely not be an ingredient in a food an animal will eat daily for weeks, months or even years of its life. In countries of the European Union, propylene glycol is not cleared as a general-purpose food grade product or direct food additive.</p> |
| Binders | |
| Corn Gluten | <p>I have not been able to locate an official definition of this product, but since it is contained in only one formulation of one manufacturer (Excel Chunks/Mini Chunks), I assume it is the same as "Corn Gluten Meal".</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing which offers very little nutritional value and serves mainly to bind food together. It is not a harmful ingredient but should be avoided simply for its poor nutritional value and quality.</p> |

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| <p>Wheat Gluten</p> | <p>AAFCO: The tough, viscid nitrogenous substance remaining when wheat is washed to remove the starch.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing with almost no nutritional value left, serves mostly as a binder.</p> |
| <p>Carbohydrate Sources</p> | |
| <p>Brewers Rice</p> | <p>Also appears in ingredient lists as ground Brewers Rice.</p> <p>AAFCO: The small milled fragments of rice kernels that have been separated from the larger kernels of milled rice.</p> <p>A processed rice product that is missing many of the nutrients contained in whole ground rice and brown rice. Contrary to what many pet food companies want to make you believe, this is not a high quality ingredient, just much cheaper than whole grain rice.</p> |
| <p>Cereal Food Fines</p> | <p>AAFCO: Particles of breakfast cereals obtained as a by-product of their processing.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing of unknown source, quality, possible chemical residue, sweeteners or other additives.</p> |
| <p>Feeding Oat Meal</p> | <p>AAFCO: Feeding oat meal is obtained in the manufacture of rolled oat groats or rolled oats and consists of broken oat groats, oat groat chips, and floury portions of the oat groats, with only such quantity of finely ground oat hulls as is unavoidable in the usual process of commercial milling.</p> <p>A food-grade fractionated grain, by-product from human food processing, that is not as nutritionally valuable as the product obtained from whole oats.</p> |
| <p>Grain Fermentation Solubles</p> | <p>AAFCO: The dried material resulting from drying the water soluble materials after separation of suspended solids from grain fermentation.</p> <p>An inexpensive by product of human food and beverage production which adds little or no nutritional value to pet foods.</p> |
| <p>Maltodextrins & Fermentation Solubles</p> | <p>I have not been able to locate an official definition for this product so far.</p> <p>A brewery by-product much like "grain fermentation solubles", with some maltodextrin from malted barley. Better suited for use in short term feeding like e.g. livestock than as an ingredient in pet food.</p> |
| <p>Potato Product</p> | <p>AAFCO: Potato pieces, peeling, culls, etc., obtained from the manufacture of processed potato products for human consumption.</p> <p>A cheap by-product of human food processing that has been stripped of much of the nutritional benefits that whole, fresh potatoes offer.</p> |

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| | <p>Potato is used in many grain-free products > something has to replace the grain and in many cases it is potato.</p> |
| Soy Flour | <p>AAFCO: The finely powdered material resulting from the screened and graded product after removal of most of the oil from selected, sound, cleaned and dehulled soybeans by a mechanical or solvent extraction process.</p> <p>Much of the nutritional value is lost already during processing of the grain to flour. May contain particles of hull, germ, and the offal from the tail of the mill.</p> |
| Fat Sources | |
| Animal Fat | <p>AAFCO: Obtained from the tissues of mammals and/or poultry in the commercial processes of rendering or extracting. It consists predominantly of glyceride esters of fatty acids and contains no additions of free fatty acids. If an antioxidant is used, the common name or names must be indicated, followed by the words "used as a preservative".</p> <p>Note that the animal source is not specified and is not required to originate from "slaughtered" animals. The rendered animals can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc. road kill, animals euthanized at shelters, restaurant and supermarket refuse and so on.</p> |
| Beef Tallow | <p>AAFCO: Fat with titer above 40 degrees Celsius, obtained from the tissue of cattle in the commercial process of rendering. Also called Beef Fat.</p> <p>Dogs and cats like the taste of this fat, so it is often used to make low-quality food more palatable. Beef tallow is very low in linoleic acid and much cheaper for the pet food industry to use than a good quality vegetable oil or nutritionally rich chicken fat.</p> |
| Lard | <p>AAFCO: The rendered fat of swine.</p> <p>Very low in linoleic acid but very attractive to pets, used to make poor quality food more appealing. Few nutritional benefits.</p> |
| Poultry Fat | <p>AAFCO: Obtained from the tissue of poultry in the commercial process of rendering or extracting. It shall contain only the fatty matter natural to the product produced under good manufacturing practices and shall contain no added free fatty acids or other materials obtained from fat. It must contain not less than 90 percent total fatty acids and not more than 3 percent of unsaponifiables and impurities. It shall have a minimum titer of 33 degrees Celsius. If an antioxidant is used, the common name or names must be indicated, followed by the word "preservative(s)".</p> <p>Note how in this product the source is not defined as "slaughtered poultry". The rendered fowl can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals"</p> |

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| | (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), turkey, chicken, geese, buzzard, seagulls, misc. |
| Vegetable Oil | <p>AAFCO: The product of vegetable origin obtained by extracting the oil from seeds or fruits which are processed for edible purposes.</p> <p>The source vegetables for this oil (and therefore the nutrient properties or lack thereof) are unknown. Wouldn't you like to know just what exactly you are feeding your pet?</p> |
| Fibre Sources | |
| Cellulose | <p>AAFCO: Purified, mechanically disintegrated cellulose prepared by processing alpha cellulose obtained as a pulp from fibrous plant materials.</p> <p>Dried wood is the most common source for cellulose (I'm not kidding.). It is cleaned, processed into a fine powder and used to add bulk and consistency to cheap pet foods. I would consider this ingredient appropriate for termites, but certainly not for dogs or cats.</p> |
| Corn Bran | <p>AAFCO: The outer coating of the corn kernel.</p> <p>An inexpensive source of fibre that serves as a filler ingredient to add bulk to poor quality pet food.</p> |
| Corn Cellulose | <p>AAFCO: A product obtained from the cell walls of corn.</p> <p>Obtained by use of a chemical process, it is used to add bulk and consistency to cheap pet foods and has no nutritional value.</p> |
| Oat Hulls | <p>I have not been able to locate an official definition for this product so far.</p> <p>Most likely what is left over from dehulling the whole oat kernels after harvesting, comparable to peanut hulls. It is not the same as oat bran (the hull that protects the grain itself), which is a quality source of dietary fibre and removed prior to rolling and/or flaking. Thumbs down for this filler ingredient.</p> |
| Rice Hulls | <p>AAFCO: The outer covering of rice.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing, serving as a source of fibre that is considered a filler ingredient.</p> |
| Flavouring Agents | |
| Animal Digest | <p>AAFCO: A material which results from chemical and/or enzymatic hydrolysis of clean and undecomposed animal tissue. The animal tissues used shall be exclusive of hair, horns, teeth, hooves and feathers, except in such trace amounts as might occur unavoidably in good factory practice and shall be suitable for animal feed. If it bears a name descriptive of its kind or flavor(s), it must correspond thereto.</p> <p>A cooked-down broth made from unspecified parts of unspecified animals. The</p> |

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| | <p>animals used can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc.</p> |
| Digest | <p>May also appear as dried, or spray dried. Sometimes the type and part of animals used is specified, such as in "Chicken Digest", "Lamb Digest" or "Poultry Liver Digest"</p> <p>AAFCO: Material which results from chemical and/or enzymatic hydrolysis of clean and undecomposed animal tissue. The animal tissues used shall be exclusive of hair, horns, teeth, hooves and feathers, except in such trace amounts as might occur unavoidably in good factory practice and shall be suitable for animal feed. .</p> <p>A cooked-down broth made from specified, or worse, unspecified parts of specified or unspecified animals (depending on the type of digest used). If the source is unspecified (e.g. "Animal" or "Poultry", the animals used can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc.</p> |
| Flavour | <p>A substance, such as an extract or spice, that add flavor to a product.</p> <p>The manufacturer may or may not give more detailed information about what is used for flavoring and whether it is made from a natural or chemical substance.</p> |
| Fruits & Vegetables | |
| Apple Pomace | <p>AAFCO: The mixture of apple skins, pulp, and crushed seeds.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing. Does not contain the whole complement of nutrients as whole fresh or dried apples.</p> |
| Citrus Pulp | <p>Citrus Pulp is the dried residue of peel, pulp and seeds of oranges, grapefruit and other citrus fruit.</p> <p>This inexpensive by-product is mainly used as a bulk carbohydrate concentrate in cattle feed but also added as a source of fibre in dog food. Since the peel and some twigs and leaves are also included, there is a possibility of residues from pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.</p> |
| Grape Pomace | <p>AAFCO: The mixture of grape skins, pulp, and crushed seeds.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product left over from pressing grapes for juice or wine. The product contributes some fibre but otherwise has little to no nutritional value. Grapes have also shown to contain a substance that is toxic to dogs, so they should not be fed at all.</p> |
| Preservatives | |
| BHA | Butylated Hydroxyanisole – a white, waxy phenolic antioxidant, C ₁₁ H ₁₆ O ₂ , |

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| | <p>used to preserve fats and oils, especially in foods.</p> <p>Banned from human use in many countries but still permitted in the US. Possible human carcinogen, apparently carcinogenic in animal experiments. The oxidative characteristics and/or metabolites of BHA and BHT may contribute to carcinogenicity or tumorigenicity.</p> |
| BHT | <p>Butylated Hydroxytoluene – a crystalline phenolic antioxidant, C₁₅H₂₄O, used to preserve fats and oils, especially in foods.</p> <p>Banned from human use in many countries but still permitted in the US. Possible human carcinogen, apparently carcinogenic in animal experiments. The oxidative characteristics and/or metabolites of BHA and BHT may contribute to carcinogenicity or tumorigenicity.</p> |
| Ethoxyquin | <p>6-ethoxy-1,2-dihydro-2,2,4-trimethylquinoline. Antioxidant; also a post-harvest dip to prevent scald on apples and pears.</p> <p>Originally developed by Monsanto as a stabilizer for rubber, Ethoxyquin has also been used as a pesticide for fruit and a color preservative for spices, and later for animal feed. The original FDA permit for use as stabilizer in animal feed limited use to two years and did not include pet food, but it falls under the same legal category. It has never been proven to be safe for the lifespan of a companion animal. It has been linked to thyroid, kidney, reproductive and immune related illnesses as well as cancer, but so far no conclusive, reliable research results either for the safety of this product or against it have not been obtained. Monsanto conducted research years ago, but results were so inconclusive due to unprofessional conduct and documentation that the FDA demanded another study. There are currently several studies underway to determine whether Ethoxyquin is safe or not, and until those studies are completed, pet food suppliers may continue to use Ethoxyquin. This is how things stand after about 6 years, and no new details have emerged so far.</p> |
| Propyl Gallate | <p>Also known as Gallic Acid or Propyl Ester. It is made from natural Gallic Acid, which is obtained by the hydrolysis of tannins from Tara Pods.</p> <p>Used as an antioxidant to stabilize cosmetics, food packaging materials, and foods containing fats. I have not found conclusive evidence either for or against the safety of this product, but it is suspected of causing liver diseases and cancer, so once again personally I prefer to err on the side of caution. Mixed tocopherols, citric acid and rosemary extract are effective, all-natural alternatives – just more expensive.</p> |
| Protein Sources | |
| Beef & Bone Meal | <p>AAFCO: The rendered product from beef tissues, including bone, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents, except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p> |

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| | <p>A by-product made from beef parts which are not suitable for human consumption. It can incorporate the entire cow, including the bones, but the quality cuts of meat are always removed. This is an inexpensive, low quality ingredient used to boost the protein percentage.</p> |
| Blood Meal | <p>AAFCO: Blood Meal is produced from clean, fresh animal blood, exclusive of all extraneous material such as hair, stomach belchings and urine except as might occur unavoidably in good manufacturing process. A large portion of the moisture is usually removed by a mechanical dewatering process or by condensing by cooking to a semi-solid state. The semi-solid blood mass is then transferred to a rapid drying facility where the more tightly bound water is rapidly removed. The minimum biological activity of lysine shall be 80%.</p> <p>An inexpensive protein booster. You have no way of knowing what type of animal the blood came from or what residues of hormones, medications or other substances are in this product. It has a better use as fertilizer than as a dog food ingredient.</p> |
| Chicken By-product Meal | <p>AAFCO: Consists of the dry, ground, rendered, clean parts of the carcass of slaughtered chicken, such as necks, feet, undeveloped eggs, and intestines -- exclusive of feathers except in such amounts as might occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p> <p>Chicken by-products are much less expensive and less digestible than the chicken muscle meat. The ingredients of each batch can vary drastically in ingredients (heads, feet, bones etc.) as well as quality, thus the nutritional value is also not consistent. Don't forget that by products consist of any parts of the animal OTHER than meat. If there is any use for any part of the animal that brings more profit than selling it as "by product", rest assured it will appear in such a product rather than in the "by product" dumpster.</p> |
| Corn Distillers Dried Grains With Solubles | <p>Distillers Dried Grains with solubles (DDGS) is the product obtained by condensing and drying the stillage that remains after fermenting the starch in corn or milo in the production of ethyl alcohol.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product used as protein filler in cheap dog foods. Its amino acids are poorly balanced, not very digestible, have a high fibre content and nutritional value can vary greatly from batch to batch. Better suited as cattle feed.</p> |
| Corn Germ Meal | <p>AAFCO: Ground corn germ which consists of corn germ with other parts of the corn kernel from which part of the oil has been removed and is obtained from either a wet or dry milling manufacturing process of corn meal, corn grits, hominy feed, or other corn products.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing, rich in protein but sadly often used as a booster in poor quality foods. It is not a harmful ingredient but should not rank high in the ingredient list of a quality product.</p> |
| Corn Gluten Meal | <p>AAFCO: The dried residue from corn after the removal of the larger part of the</p> |

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| | <p>starch and germ, and the separation of the bran by the process employed in the wet milling manufacture of corn starch or syrup, or by enzymatic treatment of the endosperm.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing which contains some protein but serves mainly to bind food together. It is not a harmful ingredient but should not rank high in the ingredient list of a quality product.</p> |
| Fish Meal | <p>AAFCO: The clean, rendered, dried ground tissue of undecomposed whole fish or fish cuttings, either or both, with or without the extraction of part of the oil.</p> <p>Like with all other animal sources, if a type isn't specified, you never know what type or quality of fish is used.</p> <p>According to US Coast Guard regulations, all fish meal not destined for human consumption must be conserved with Ethoxyquin (unless the manufacturer has a special permit). This preservative is banned from use in foods for human consumption except for the use of very small quantities as a colour preservative for spices. So unless the manufacturer either presents a permit or states "human grade" fish or fish meal is used, you can be pretty sure Ethoxyquin is present in the food even if it is not listed.</p> |
| Liver Meal | <p>AAFCO: The dried product of ground hepatic glands of mammals.</p> <p>Whenever the word 'meat' or the name of an organ appear by themselves (without a species) on a pet food label, there is no way to know which kind of animal it came from. It could be horse liver, goat, duck, pig, or other animals of questionable origin.</p> |
| Meat & Bone Meal | <p>AAFCO: The rendered product from mammal tissues, with or without bone, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p> <p>The animal parts used can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc. It can also include pus, cancerous tissue, and decomposed (spoiled) tissue.</p> |
| Meat Meal | <p>AAFCO: The rendered product from mammal tissues, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p> <p>The animal parts used can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc. It can also include pus, cancerous tissue, and decomposed (spoiled) tissue.</p> |
| Pork & Bone Meal | <p>AAFCO: The rendered product from pork tissues, including bone, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, skin, manure, stomach and rumen contents, except</p> |

in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices.

A by-product made from pork parts which are not suitable for human consumption. It can incorporate the entire pig, including the bones, but the quality cuts of meat are always removed. This is an inexpensive, low quality ingredient used to boost the protein percentage.

Poultry By – product Meal

AAFCO: Consists of the ground, rendered, clean parts of the carcasses of slaughtered poultry, such as necks, feet, undeveloped eggs, and intestines, exclusive of feathers except in such amounts as might occur unavoidably in good processing practices.

The parts used can be obtained from any slaughtered fowl, so there is no control over the quality and consistency of individual batches. Poultry by products are much less expensive and less digestible than chicken meat. The ingredients of each batch can vary drastically in ingredients (heads, feet, bones, organs etc.) as well as quality, thus the nutritional value is also not consistent. Don't forget that by-products consist of any parts of the animal OTHER than meat. If there is any use for any part of the animal that brings more profit than selling it as "by product", rest assured it will appear in such a product rather than in the "by product" dumpster.

Poultry Meal

AAFCO: The clean combination of poultry flesh and skin with or without bone. Does not contain feathers, heads, feet or entrails. If from a particular source it may state so (i.e. chicken, turkey etc).

Note how in this product the source is not defined as "slaughtered poultry". The manufacturer does not disclose the species (or the mix of species) of the poultry used. The fowl can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), turkey, chicken, geese, buzzard, seagulls, misc.

Soybean Meal

AAFCO: The product obtained by grinding the flakes which remain after removal of most of the oil from soybeans by a solvent or mechanical extraction process.

A poor quality protein filler used to boost the protein content of low quality pet foods. Has a biologic value of less than 50% of chicken meal.

Supplements

Bone Phosphate

Bone Phosphate is the residue of bones that have been treated first in a caustic solution then in a hydrochloric acid solution, and thereafter precipitated with lime and dried.

A highly processed feed-grade supplement to balance the calcium and phosphorus content of a product.

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| <p>Salt</p> | <p>Also listed as Sodium Chloride. A colourless or white crystalline solid, chiefly sodium chloride, used extensively in ground or granulated form as a food seasoning and preservative. May also appear in ingredient list as "Iodized Salt" (iodine supplement added), "Sea Salt" (as opposed to salt mined from underground deposits) or "Sodium Chloride" (chemical expression).</p> <p>While salt is a necessary mineral, it is also generally present in sufficient quantities in the ingredients pet foods include. Just like for humans, too much sodium intake is unhealthy for animals. In poor quality foods it is often used in large amounts to add flavour and make the food more interesting.</p> |
| <p>Mineral Oil</p> | <p>Any of various light hydrocarbon oils, especially a distillate of petroleum.</p> <p>Mineral oil functions as a laxative and stool softener. I have not found any evidence of any other health benefits. Tells a lot about the product it is used in, doesn't it?</p> |
| <p>Yeast Culture</p> | <p>AAFCO: The dried product composed of yeast and the media on which it is grown, dried in such a manner as to preserve the fermenting activity of the yeast.</p> <p>An unnecessary, feed-grade ingredient in pet foods, added mainly as a flavouring to make inexpensive food more attractive. Lacks the nutritional value of higher quality yeast supplements. The media on which the yeast was grown is not identified. Also a potential allergen for some dogs.</p> |
| <p>Yeast Fermentation Solubles</p> | <p>AAFCO: The soluble portion of yeast (<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>) and the media in which is produced.</p> <p>A feed-grade ingredient in pet foods, added as a vitamin B supplement. It is harmless, but lacks the nutrients of higher quality yeast supplements. The media on which the yeast was grown is not identified. Also a potential allergen for some dogs.</p> |
| <p>Sweeteners</p> | |
| <p>Corn Syrup</p> | <p>A syrup prepared from cornstarch, used in industry and in numerous food products as a sweetener.</p> <p>Sugar or sweetener is an absolutely unnecessary ingredient in pet foods, added to make the product more attractive. Continuous intake can promote hypoglycemia, obesity, nervousness, cataracts, tooth decay, arthritis and allergies. Pets also get addicted to foods that contain sugars, so it can be a tough piece of work to make them eat something healthier.</p> |
| <p>Fructose</p> | <p>A very sweet sugar, C₆H₁₂O₆, occurring in many fruits and honey and used as a preservative for food and as an intravenous nutrient.</p> <p>A monosaccharide found naturally in fresh fruit and honey. It is obtained by the inversion of sucrose by means of the enzyme invertase. Used in small quantities it serves as a nutrient for probiotics, specifically bifidobacteria, which ferment it</p> |

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| | and produce beneficial enzymes. |
| Sorbitol | <p>A white, sweetish, crystalline alcohol, C₆H₈(OH)₆, found in various berries and fruits or prepared synthetically and used as a flavouring agent, a sugar substitute for people with diabetes, and a moisturizer in cosmetics and other products.</p> <p>Sugar or sweetener is an absolutely unnecessary ingredient in pet foods, added to make the product more attractive. Continuous intake can promote hypoglycemia, obesity, nervousness, cataracts, tooth decay, arthritis and allergies. Pets also get addicted to foods that contain sugars, so it can be a tough piece of work to make them eat something healthier.</p> |
| Sugar | <p>Can include sucrose, cane sugar, caramel, corn syrup and others.</p> <p>Sugar or sweetener is an absolutely unnecessary ingredient in pet foods, added to make the product more attractive. Continuous intake can promote hypoglycemia, obesity, nervousness, cataracts, tooth decay, arthritis and allergies. Pets also get addicted to foods that contain sugars, so it can be a tough piece of work to make them eat something healthier.</p> |
| DI-Alpha Tocopherol Acetate | <p>Synthetic vitamin E, also listed as DI-Alpha Tocopheryl Acetate</p> <p>Only about half as effective as natural vitamin E and not as readily available to the body.</p> |
| Vitamins | |
| Menadione Sodium Bisulfate | <p>Vitamin K₃, synthetic vitamin K.</p> <p>Feed grade. Also listed as Menadione Dimethyl-Pyrimidinol Bisulfate, Menadione Dimethyl-Pyrimidinol Bisulfite, Menadione Sodium Bisulfate Complex, Menadione Sodium Bisulfite and Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex.</p> <p>Unnecessary ingredient in dog food. This synthetic version of vitamin K has not been specifically approved for long term use, such as in pet food. It has been linked to many serious health issues.</p> |

Puppy Kibbles with phos:calc ratios 1.2:1 – 1.3:1 that are commonly fed in Australia

(Or Giant Breed specific formulas that may not meet this ratio)

Based on information collected from sources such the [dogfoodproject](#) & [dogfoodadvisor](#) we will highlight ingredients in the following manner:

- **BLACK:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as higher quality/necessary that you would like to see in the top 4.
- **ORANGE:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as moderate–acceptable quality that is generally expected to see somewhere in the top 4.
- **RED:** Ingredients that are generally not considered higher quality which you would not want to see so highly in the ingredients list.

Canidae All Life Stages (Limited Grain)

Protein: 24%
Calcium: 1.20%
Phosphorus: 0.90%
Fat: 14.50%
(Calc/Phos Ratio: 1.3:1)



First 4 Ingredients:
Chicken Meal, Turkey Meal,
Lamb Meal, **Brown Rice**

Price: 20 kgs for approx \$95–\$120.00

BlackHawk Professional Fish & Sweet Potato Holistic (Limited Grain)

Protein: 22%
Calcium: 1.0%
Phosphorus: 0.80%
Fat: 14%
(Calc/Phos Ratio: 1.3:1)



First 4 Ingredients:
Anchovy & Ocean Fish
Meal, Salmon Meal, **Sweet
Potato, Ground Whole
Brown Rice**

Price: 20 kgs for approx \$95–\$120.00

Please note: This is a new product on the market; therefore there is not an available history available about how well Great Dane puppies grew on this product as yet. It is becoming widely used by consumers who like the Blackhawk Adult Kibbles that were not suitable for puppies.

Wellness Super 5 Mix, Large Breed

Protein: 25%

Calcium: 1.00%

Phosphorus: 0.75%

Fat: 11% (Lower fat, may need to feed more of)
(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.3:1)

Price: 13.6kgs for approx \$120.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Deboned Chicken,
Whitefish, Chicken Meal,
Oatmeal

Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy

Protein: 23%

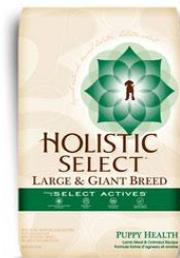
Calcium: 1.10%

Phosphorus: 0.80%

Fat: 12%

(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.4:1)

Price: 13.6kgs for approx \$119.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Lamb Meal, Ground Brown
Rice, Ground White Rice,
Chicken Meal

Eagle Pack Large & Giant Breed Puppy

Protein: 23%

Calcium: 1.5%

Phosphorus: 1.0%

Fat: 12%

(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.5:1)

Price: 13.6kgs for approx \$118.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Lamb Meal, Ground Brown
Rice, Ground White Rice,
Ground Yellow Corn

Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy

Protein: 34%

Calcium: 1.0%

Phosphorus: 0.85%

Fat: 14%

(Calc/Phos Ratio: 1.2:1)

Price: 15kgs for approx \$123.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Dehydrated poultry meat,
rice, vegetable protein
isolate, maize

Advance Total Wellbeing All Breed

Protein: 26%
Calcium: 0.62%
Phosphorus: 0.51% (Lower % than recommended)
Fat: 15%
(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.2:1)

Price: 15kgs for approx \$108.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Chicken, Rice, Corn,
Sorghum.

Eukanuba Large Breed Puppy

Protein: 26%
Calcium: 0.80%
Phosphorus: 0.67%
Fat: 14%
(Calc/Phos Ratio: 1.2:1)

Price: 15kgs for approx \$133.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Dried Chicken and Turkey,
Maize, Wheat and Sorghum.

Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice

Protein: 26%
Calcium: 1.0%
Phosphorus: 0.80%
Fat: 15%
(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.3:1)

Price: 15kgs for approx \$109.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Chicken, Wholegrain
Wheat, Poultry Meal, Corn
Gluten Meal.

Supercoat Large Breed Puppy

Protein: 27%
Calcium: 1.0%
Phosphorus: 0.80%
Fat: 12%
(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.3:1)

Price: 18kgs for approx \$60.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Meat and meat by-
products, Wholegrain
cereals, Cereal bran
and/or other cereals, Beet
pulp.

Where did Bonnie Working Dog go? Previously listed in this section it has been removed in 2014 due to their formula changing. It now no longer has a 1.2:1-1.3:1 calc:phos ratio.

2014 Puppy Feed Survey

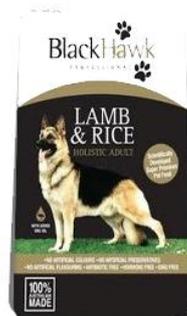
The 2014 survey said the following were the top 5 most commonly fed kibbles. Please do note however the Blackhawk Lamb & Rice does not have the recommended phos:calc ratios.



Most commonly fed Puppy Kibble



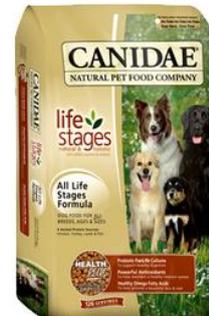
2nd most commonly fed Puppy Kibble



3rd most commonly fed Puppy Kibble
(outside of recommended ratios)



4th most commonly fed Puppy Kibble



5th most commonly fed Puppy Kibble

Will feeding a kibble with lower quality ingredients to my puppy negatively affect its growth?

If you select a kibble with the suitable calc:phos ratios then the rest comes down to ingredients being more nutritious than others.

As an example some ingredients may be considered 'meat & 3 vegetables meal' where—as others may be more a 'meat pie' and some may be more like 'noodles'...all of which you can survive on just fine but understandably some ingredients simply nourish the body more effectively than others.

Cost also does not necessarily determine a kibble's quality so be careful not to just go by this as a guideline.

Will feeding a high quality kibble to my puppy mean my dog will do the best on it?

Just like people, dogs have food intolerances. You may find that you buy what you feel is the best possible quality kibble yet your dog's tummy does not agree, this is why it is best to feed what your breeder recommends at least initially and then slowly transition over to a new kibble if that's what you wish to do.

Ideally you won't swap and change kibbles too much in the first year.

Some super premium kibbles may be too rich for some dogs and some kibbles with high rice contents may lead to looser stools; it really comes down to trial and error.

In saying the above, common sense does prevail in terms of what nutritious ingredients do for the body versus ingredients which hold little nutritional benefit.

How much should I feed my puppy?

Start with what the feed guide on the packaging says or what your breeder directs you to feed and then increase/ decrease as per your dog's individual needs.

Just keep an eye on your puppy ensuring they never get chubby, it is always better that a Great Dane puppy grows lean (avoid your puppy being skinny where possible) than chubby as it places too much pressure on those fast growing bones/joints.

You'll naturally have to feed more of lower fat and lower quality kibbles so it's better to choose a kibble that is good quality and has a suitable fat content from the get go.

Puppy Kibble ‘Ingredient’ Comparisons

As a reminder before we head to the comparisons:

Based on information collected from sources such the [dogfoodproject](#) & [dogfoodadvisor](#) we will highlight ingredients in the following manner:

- **BLACK:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as higher quality/necessary that you would like to see in the top 4.
- **ORANGE:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as moderate–acceptable quality that is generally expected to see somewhere in the top 4.
- **RED:** Ingredients that are generally not considered higher quality which you would not want to see so highly in the ingredients list.

| Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Advance Puppy Plus Growth Large Breed | Chicken | Rice | Corn Gluten | Corn |
| Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato | Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal | Salmon Meal | Sweet Potato | Ground Whole Brown Rice |
| Canidae – All Life Stages Formula | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice |
| Canidae – Chicken & Rice | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice | White Rice | Cracked Pearled Barley |
| Canidae – Large Breed Puppy – Duck Meal, Brown Rice and Lentils (Coming soon) | Duck Meal | Brown Rice | Oats | Peas |
| Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea | Salmon | Salmon meal | Menhaden fish meal | Sweet Potatoes |
| Dogpro Original Adult Complete | Wholegrain Cereals | Real meat and meat & Veg by-products | Vegetable oil | Iodised salt |
| Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Ground Yellow Corn |
| Eagle Pack – Large Giant Puppy | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Ground Yellow Corn |
| Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork) | Pork Meal | Ground Yellow Corn | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice |
| Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion | Whitefish Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Ground Barley | Rye Flour |
| Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free) | Herring Meal | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) | Peas | Canola Oil |
| Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed | Chicken | Corn Meal | Ground Whole Grain Sorghum | Ground Whole Grain Barley |

| Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin | Maize | Fish Meal | Animal Fat | Dried Whole Egg |
| Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed | Dried Chicken And Turkey | Maize | Wheat | Sorghum |
| Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food | Brewers Rice | Whole Grain Corn | Corn Gluten Meal | Pork Meal |
| Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy Health Lamb Meal & Oatmeal | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Chicken Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Brewers Rice | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice | Lamb | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New) | Salmon and Tuna | Oats | Vegetable Protein Concentrate | Fish protein Meal |
| Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Brewers Rice | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Puppy Original Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal | Wholegrain yellow corn |
| Pro Plan Puppy Original Lamb & Rice | Lamb | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal | Beef and/or lamb tallow |
| Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy | Dehydrated Poultry Protein | Rice | Vegetable Protein | Isolate |
| Supercoat Adult Beef | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| Supercoat Adult Chicken | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths) | Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Tapioca Starch | Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |
| V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths) | Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Potato and Tapioca Starch | Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |

Puppy Kibble 'Price' Comparisons

In this comparison, you will be able to see where you can get more bang for your buck. This comparison is based on price, scroll through and see which kibbles have the higher quality ingredients within your budget.

| Kibble | Price per kilo | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Dogpro Original Adult Complete | \$ 1.80 | Wholegrain Cereals | Real meat and meat & Veg by-products | Vegetable oil | Iodised salt |
| Supercoat Adult Beef | \$ 3.06 | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| Supercoat Adult Chicken | \$ 3.06 | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| Canidae – All Life Stages Formula | \$ 5.00 | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice |
| V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths) | \$ 5.34 | Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Tapioca Starch | Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |
| V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths) | \$ 5.34 | Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Potato and Tapioca Starch | Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |
| Advance Puppy Plus Growth Large Breed | \$ 5.39 | Chicken | Rice | Corn Gluten | Corn |
| Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato | \$ 5.75 | Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal | Salmon Meal | Sweet Potato | Ground Whole Brown Rice |
| Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice | \$ 6.13 | Chicken | Brewers Rice | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice | \$ 6.20 | Lamb | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Puppy Original Lamb & Rice | \$ 6.20 | Lamb | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal | Beef and/or lamb tallow |
| Canidae – Chicken & Rice | \$ 6.25 | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice | White Rice | Cracked Pearled Barley |
| Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice | \$ 6.40 | Chicken | Brewers Rice | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice | \$ 6.66 | Chicken | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed | \$ 6.86 | Chicken | Corn Meal | Ground Whole Grain Sorghum | Ground Whole Grain Barley |
| Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed | \$ 6.86 | Dried Chicken And Turkey | Maize | Wheat | Sorghum |
| Pro Plan Puppy Original Chicken & Rice | \$ 7.00 | Chicken | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal | Wholegrain yellow corn |
| Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork) | \$ 7.28 | Pork Meal | Ground Yellow Corn | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice |
| Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New) | \$ 7.50 | Salmon and Tuna | Oats | Vegetable Protein Concentrate | Fish protein Meal |
| Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult | \$ 7.72 | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Ground Yellow Corn |
| Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy | \$ 7.80 | Dehydrated Poultry Protein | Rice | Vegetable Protein | Isolate |
| Eagle Pack – Large Giant Puppy | \$ 8.45 | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Ground Yellow Corn |
| Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin | \$ 8.58 | Maize | Fish Meal | Animal Fat | Dried Whole Egg |
| Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food | \$ 8.71 | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal | \$ 8.71 | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy Health Lamb Meal & Oatmeal | \$ 8.71 | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Chicken Meal |
| Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion | \$ 8.75 | Whitefish Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Ground Barley | Rye Flour |
| Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free) | \$ 9.16 | Herring Meal | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) | Peas | Canola Oil |
| Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea | \$ 9.19 | Salmon | Salmon meal | Menhaden fish meal | Sweet Potatoes |
| Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food | \$ 9.29 | Brewers Rice | Whole Grain Corn | Corn Gluten Meal | Pork Meal |
| Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements | \$ 11.32 | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Canidae – Large Breed Puppy – Duck Meal, Brown Rice and Lentils (Coming soon) | \$ TBA | Duck Meal | Brown Rice | Oats | Peas |

Puppy Kibble ‘Meat Content’ Comparisons

In this comparison, you will be able to see which kibbles have the most quality meats in the top 4 ingredients. Quality meats does not include Meat By-products or similar.

| Number of Quality Meats | Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 3 | Canidae – All Life Stages Formula | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice |
| 3 | Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| 3 | Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea | Salmon | Salmon meal | Menhaden fish meal | Sweet Potatoes |
| 2 | Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato | Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal | Salmon Meal | Sweet Potato | Ground Whole Brown Rice |
| 2 | Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| 2 | Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy Health Lamb Meal & Oatmeal | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Chicken Meal |
| 2 | Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Brewers Rice | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| 2 | Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| 2 | Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice | Lamb | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| 2 | Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New) | Salmon and Tuna | Oats | Vegetable Protein Concentrate | Fish protein Meal |
| 2 | Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Brewers Rice | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| 2 | Pro Plan Puppy Original Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal | Wholegrain yellow corn |
| 2 | Pro Plan Puppy Original Lamb & Rice | Lamb | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal | Beef and/or lamb tallow |
| 1 | Advance Puppy Plus Growth Large Breed | Chicken | Rice | Corn Gluten | Corn |
| 1 | Canidae – Chicken & Rice | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice | White Rice | Cracked Pearled Barley |
| 1 | Canidae – Large Breed Puppy – Duck Meal, Brown Rice and Lentils (Coming soon) | Duck Meal | Brown Rice | Oats | Peas |
| 1 | Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Ground Yellow Corn |
| Number of | Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |

| Quality Meats | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Eagle Pack – Large Giant Puppy | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Ground Yellow Corn |
| 1 | Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork) | Pork Meal | Ground Yellow Corn | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice |
| 1 | Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion | Whitefish Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Ground Barley | Rye Flour |
| 1 | Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free) | Herring Meal | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) | Peas | Canola Oil |
| 1 | Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed | Chicken | Corn Meal | Ground Whole Grain Sorghum | Ground Whole Grain Barley |
| 1 | Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin | Maize | Fish Meal | Animal Fat | Dried Whole Egg |
| 1 | Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food | Brewers Rice | Whole Grain Corn | Corn Gluten Meal | Pork Meal |
| 1 | Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| 0 | Dogpro Original Adult Complete | Wholegrain Cereals | Real meat and meat & Veg by-products | Vegetable oil | Iodised salt |
| 0 | Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed | Dried Chicken And Turkey | Maize | Wheat | Sorghum |
| 0 | Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy | Dehydrated Poultry Protein | Rice | Vegetable Protein | Isolate |
| 0 | Supercoat Adult Beef | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| 0 | Supercoat Adult Chicken | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| 0 | V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths) | Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Tapioca Starch | Tallow and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |

Body Condition Scoring

It is important that your Great Dane is never allowed to become chubby / overweight. In growing Dane puppies this can cause a whole host of growth problems and in Adults it places more pressure on their joints and organs. It is better to keep a Great Dane Lean rather than overweight.

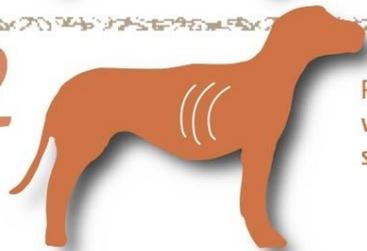
Body Condition Scoring

1



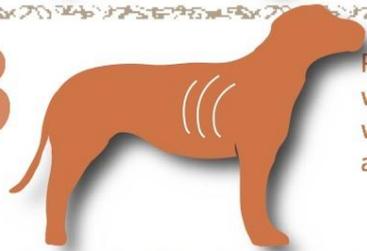
Ribs, spine and bony protrusions are easily seen at a distance. These pets have lost muscle mass and there is no observable body fat. Emaciated, bony, and starved in appearance.

2



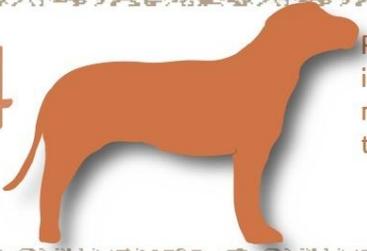
Ribs, spine and other bones are easily felt. These pets have an obvious waist when viewed from above and an abdominal tuck. Thin, lean or skinny in appearance.

3



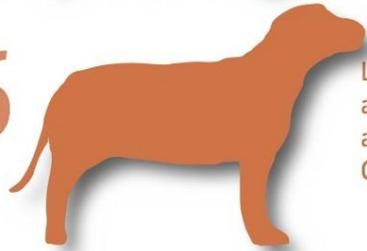
Ribs and spine are easily felt but not necessarily seen. There is a waist when viewed from above and the abdomen is raised and not sagging when viewed from the side. Normal, ideal and often muscular in appearance.

4



Ribs and spine are hard to feel or count underneath fat deposits. Waist is distended or often pear-shaped when viewed from above. The abdomen sags when seen from the side. There are typically fat deposits on the hips, base of tail and chest. Overweight, heavy, husky or stout.

5



Large fat deposits over the chest, back, tail base and hindquarters. The abdomen sags prominently and there is no waist when viewed from above. The chest and abdomen often appear distended or swollen. Obese.



Meals for healthy Adult Great Danes

The choice can be overwhelming!

Once a Great Dane reaches 10–12 months of age this signals the close of the 'Critical Growth Period' which means you no longer need to be so strict on the phos:calc ratios you give your puppy.

Many breeders ask that you wait until 12 months of age before you change your young dog's diet so this is definitely something you should discuss with your Breeder if you are in contact with them.

From this point on, what your dog does best on is a very individual thing. One brand that makes one Dane look amazing may upset the tummy of your Dane.

As your dog's guardian it will be your job to research which food you believe your dog will do best on based on your own personal preferences, your budget, advice from your Breeder and of course what your dog tends to do well on.

Dogs aren't unlike humans when it comes to diet, we know we generally do better holistically when we eat high quality foods and it's the same in animals.

Many Behaviourists recommend that owners take a look at their dog's diet when starting behavioural modification programs. We know in children that diet has a direct correlation to Behaviour apart from environmental influences.

It doesn't make sense to purchase a low quality kibble with Sugar and Salt high in the ingredients list when we know our dogs simply do not need it, this also includes lower quality kibbles that include food colouring that make foods more appealing to the humans who buy it.

An athlete (or simply someone trying to get the best out of their body) puts only the best into their body to get the best out. Your dog may not be an athlete however because you have the ability to choose your dog's diet it makes sense to choose quality ingredients.

It however is important not to keep changing the diet of your dog, a diet change should be given at least 6–8 weeks to take effect especially when dealing with food intolerances.

When changing foods you may notice your dog's stools are loose, this is typical, however if it lasts more than a couple of weeks then this may be telling you that this type of food isn't agreeing with your Great Dane and you should have a chat to your Breeder and Vet.

Providing your dog with a supplement to assist the gut flora will typically assist such as human products like Inner Health and Yakult (at human doses for Great Danes).

If Inner Health and/or Yakult aren't getting the result you are after, there are also great dog products such as: Thrive D Powder / Protexin Probiotic / Dr Goodpet Digestive Powder.

2014 Adult Feed Survey

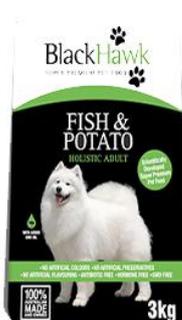
The 2014 survey said the following were the top 5 most commonly fed kibbles to adult Great Danes.



Most commonly fed Adult Kibble



2nd most commonly fed Adult Kibble



3rd most commonly fed Adult Kibble



4th most commonly fed Adult Kibble



5th most commonly fed Adult Kibble

Learn more about Blackhawk Kibble:

www.blackhawkpetcare.com.au

Learn more about Stay Loyal Kibble (only place to purchase):

www.stayloyal.com.au

Learn more about Holistic Select

www.holisticselect.com.au

Adult Kibble ‘Ingredient’ Comparisons

As a reminder before we head to the comparisons:

Based on information collected from sources such the [dogfoodproject](#) & [dogfoodadvisor](#) we will highlight ingredients in the following manner:

- **BLACK:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as higher quality/necessary that you would like to see in the top 4.
- **ORANGE:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as moderate–acceptable quality that is generally expected to see somewhere in the top 4.
- **RED:** Ingredients that are generally not considered higher quality which you would not want to see so highly in the ingredients list.

| Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|--|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A La Carte Lamb & Rice Adult | Lamb Meal | Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Cereal |
| A La Carte Lamb & Rice Puppies | Lamb Meal | Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Cereal |
| Advance Total Wellbeing Large + Breed Adult Dog Food – Chicken | Chicken | Rice | Corn | Sorghum |
| Artemis – Fresh Mix Adult Dog (Medium and Large Breeds) | Chicken | Chicken Meal | Turkey | Cracked Pearled Barley |
| Beneful Original (Supermarket) | Wholegrain Cereals (wheat and/or corn) | Meat and meat by-products | Vegetable and vegetable by-products | Sugar |
| Blackhawk – Chicken & Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground Oats | Chicken Fat |
| Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato | Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal | Salmon Meal | Sweet Potato | Ground Whole Brown Rice |
| Blackhawk – Lamb & Rice | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground Oats | Chicken Fat |
| Bonnie Adult Complete | Whole Grain Corn | Meat and meat by-products | Vegetable by-product | Vitamins |

| Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Bonnie Working Dog | Cereals and Cereal by-product | Meat and meat by-products | Vegetable by-product | Vitamins |
| California Natural Dog – Adult Chicken & Rice | Chicken Meal | Brown Rice | Rice | Sunflower Oil |
| Canidae – All Life Stages Formula | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice |
| Canidae – Chicken & Rice | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice | White Rice | Cracked Pearled Barley |
| Canidae – Lamb & Rice | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice | Cracked pearled barley | Rice Bran |
| Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea | Salmon | Salmon meal | Menhaden fish meal | Sweet Potatoes |
| Chum Crunchy – Beef, bone & vegetable flavour | Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products | Vegetable oil and / or tallow | Meat & meat by products | Salt |
| CopRice Family Dog Food | Natural Cereal grains | Chicken and chicken by-products | Wheat bran | Rice Bran |
| CopRice Working Dog | Animal Protein meals and by-products | Natural cereal grains | Rice Bran | Wheat bran |
| Dogpro Original Adult Complete | Wholegrain Cereals | Real meat and meat & Veg by-products | Vegetable oil | Iodised salt |
| Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Ground Yellow Corn |
| Eagle Pack – Natural (Lamb & Rice) | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground Yellow Corn | Chicken Fat |
| Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork) | Pork Meal | Ground Yellow Corn | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice |
| Earthborn Holistic – Adult Vantage | Chicken Meal | Oatmeal | Ground Barley | Ground Brown Rice |
| Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion | Whitefish Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Ground Barley | Rye Flour |

| Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| Earthborn Holistic – Primitive Natural (grain free) | Turkey Meal | Chicken Meal | Whitefish Meal | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free) | Herring Meal | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) | Peas | Canola Oil |
| Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed | Chicken | Corn Meal | Ground Whole Grain Sorghum | Ground Whole Grain Barley |
| Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin | Maize | Fish Meal | Animal Fat | Dried Whole Egg |
| Eukanuba Dog Sensitive Stomach | Brewers Rice | Corn Grits | Chicken By-Product Meal | Corn Meal |
| Goodo Dog – Beef | Wholegrain Cereal | Meat and meat by-products | Humectants | Palant |
| Great Barko (Laucke Mills) | Cooked meat or meat by-products | Cooked fish or fish by-products | Fat | Cooked cereals and wheaten |
| Hills Science Diet Canine Adult Large Breed Dog Food | Whole Grain Corn | Chicken By-Product Meal | Soybean Meal | Animal Fat (non specified) |
| Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food | Brewers Rice | Whole Grain Corn | Corn Gluten Meal | Pork Meal |
| Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Anchovy, Sardine & Salmon | Anchovy & Sardine Meal | Oatmeal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice |
| Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Chicken Meal & Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Lamb Meal | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Chicken Fat |
| IGA Beef | Wholegrain Cereals & cereal by-products | Meat & meat by-products | Tallow | Flavour |

| Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Salmon & Sweet Potato | Salmon Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Peas | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Turkey & Sweet Potato | Turkey Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Peas | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| My Dog with Prime Beef | Wholegrain Cereals | Meat & meat by-products | Cereal Protein | Beet pulp |
| Natural Balance – Regular Energy | Rice | Australian Lamb | Australian Duck | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Natures Gift Chicken & Rice | Poultry Meals | Wholegrain Wheat | Sacrose | Rice |
| Nutrience – Lamb and Rice | Lamb Meal | Ground Rice | Rice Bran (ingredient splitting) | Canola Oil |
| Optimum Adult with Chicken, Vegetables & Rice | Chicken & Chicken by products | Corn | Sorghum | Rice |
| Pedigree Meaty Bites Mince & Vegetables | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wheat &/Or Sorghum &/Or Barley | Wheat Bran | Glycerol |
| Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Brewers Rice | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice | Lamb | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New) | Salmon and Tuna | Oats | Vegetable Protein Concentrate | Fish protein Meal |
| Royal Canin Canine Professional Energy 4800 | Dehydrated Poultry Meat | Animal Fats | Rice | Vegetable Protein Isolate |
| Royal Canin Giant Adult | Dehydrated Poultry meat | Maize flour | Maize | Animal Fats |
| Stay Loyal (online only) https://www.stayloyal.com.au | Chicken Meal | Lamb Meal | Green Peas | Chicken Fat |

| Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Supercoat Adult Beef | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| Supercoat Adult Chicken | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| Supercoat Adult Large Breed | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| Taste of the Wild, High Prairie Canine Formula – Grain free | Bison | Lamb Meal | Chicken Meal | Sweet Potatoes |
| Taste of the Wild, Pacific Stream Canine Formula – Grain free | Salmon | Ocean Fish Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Taste of the Wild, Sierra Mountain Canine Formula – Grain free | Lamb | Lamb Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Taste of the Wild, Southwest Canyon Canine Formula – Grain free | Beef | Peas | Garbanzo Beans | Lamb Meal |
| Taste of the Wild, Wetlands Canine Formula – Grain free | Duck | Duck Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Peas |
| Uncle Alberts (Laucke Mills) | Cooked Meat or Meat By Products | Cooked Fish or Fish By Products | Cooked cereals and wheaten bran | Canola & Soybean Products |
| V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths) | Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Tapioca Starch | Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |
| V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths) | Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Potato and Tapioca Starch | Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |

| Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|--|--|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Woolworths Homebrand Mince, Marrowbone & Vegetable Flavour | Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products | Meat & Bone Meal | Tallow or Vegetable oil | Limestone |
| Woolworths Select – Beef with Vegetable | Maize Gluten | Sorghum | Beef by-product Meal | Poultry by-product meal |

Adult Kibble 'Price' Comparisons

In this comparison, you will be able to see where you can get more bang for your buck. This comparison is based on price, scroll through and see which kibbles have the higher quality ingredients within your budget.

| Kibble | Price per Kilo | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|--|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Woolworths Homebrand Mince, Marrowbone & Vegetable Flavour | \$ 1.19 | Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products | Meat & Bone Meal | Tallow or Vegetable oil | Limestone |
| Great Barko (Laucke Mills) | \$ 1.36 | Cooked meat or meat by-products | Cooked fish or fish by-products | Fat | Cooked cereals and wheaten |
| Uncle Alberts (Laucke Mills) | \$ 1.36 | Cooked Meat or Meat By Products | Cooked Fish or Fish By Products | Cooked cereals and wheaten bran | Canola & Soybean Products |
| Chum Crunchy - Beef, bone & vegetable flavour | \$ 1.53 | Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products | Vegetable oil and / or tallow | Meat & meat by products | Salt |
| IGA Beef | \$ 1.69 | Wholegrain Cereals & cereal by-products | Meat & meat by-products | Tallow | Flavour |
| CopRice Family Dog Food | \$ 1.75 | Natural Cereal grains | Chicken and chicken by-products | Wheat bran | Rice Bran |
| CopRice Working Dog | \$ 1.75 | Animal Protein meals and by-products | Natural cereal grains | Rice Bran | Wheat bran |
| Dogpro Original Adult Complete | \$ 1.80 | Wholegrain Cereals | Real meat and meat & Veg by-products | Vegetable oil | Iodised salt |
| Pedigree Meaty Bites Mince & Vegetables | \$ 1.95 | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wheat &/Or Sorghum &/Or Barley | Wheat Bran | Glycerol |
| Bonnie Adult Complete | \$ 2.30 | Whole Grain Corn | Meat and meat by-products | Vegetable by-product | Vitamins |
| Bonnie Working Dog | \$ 2.30 | Cereals and Cereal by-product | Meat and meat by-products | Vegetable by-product | Vitamins |

| Kibble | Price per Kilo | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|----------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Salmon & Sweet Potato | \$ 3.01 | Salmon Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Peas | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Turkey & Sweet Potato | \$ 3.01 | Turkey Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Peas | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Supercoat Adult Beef | \$ 3.06 | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| Supercoat Adult Chicken | \$ 3.06 | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| Supercoat Adult Large Breed | \$ 3.06 | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| Woolworths Select – Beef with Vegetable | \$ 4.24 | Maize Gluten | Sorghum | Beef by-product Meal | Poultry by-product meal |
| Beneful Original (Supermarket) | \$ 4.33 | Wholegrain Cereals (wheat and/or corn) | Meat and meat by-products | Vegetable and vegetable by-products | Sugar |
| Optimum Adult with Chicken, Vegetables & Rice | \$ 4.33 | Chicken & Chicken by products | Corn | Sorghum | Rice |
| A La Carte Lamb & Rice Adult | \$ 4.69 | Lamb Meal | Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Cereal |
| A La Carte Lamb & Rice Puppies | \$ 4.69 | Lamb Meal | Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Cereal |
| Blackhawk – Chicken & Rice | \$ 5.00 | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground Oats | Chicken Fat |
| Blackhawk – Lamb & Rice | \$ 5.00 | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground Oats | Chicken Fat |
| Canidae – All Life Stages Formula | \$ 5.00 | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice |
| Natures Gift Chicken & Rice | \$ 5.00 | Poultry Meals | Wholegrain Wheat | Sacrose | Rice |
| V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths) | \$ 5.34 | Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Tapioca Starch | Tallow and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |

| Kibble | Price per Kilo | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|----------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths) | \$ 5.34 | Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Potato and Tapioca Starch | Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |
| Goodo Dog – Beef | \$ 5.64 | Wholegrain Cereal | Meat and meat by-products | Humectants | Palant |
| Natural Balance – Regular Energy | \$ 5.67 | Rice | Australian Lamb | Australian Duck | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato | \$ 5.75 | Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal | Salmon Meal | Sweet Potato | Ground Whole Brown Rice |
| Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice | \$ 6.13 | Chicken | Brewers Rice | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice | \$ 6.20 | Lamb | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| Canidae – Chicken & Rice | \$ 6.25 | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice | White Rice | Cracked Pearled Barley |
| Stay Loyal (online only) https://www.stayloyal.com.au | \$ 6.47 | Chicken Meal | Lamb Meal | Green Peas | Chicken Fat |
| Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice | \$ 6.66 | Chicken | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| My Dog with Prime Beef | \$ 6.83 | Wholegrain Cereals | Meat & meat by-products | Cereal Protein | Beet pulp |
| Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed | \$ 6.86 | Chicken | Corn Meal | Ground Whole Grain Sorghum | Ground Whole Grain Barley |
| Taste of the Wild, High Prairie Canine Formula – Grain free | \$ 6.91 | Bison | Lamb Meal | Chicken Meal | Sweet Potatoes |
| Taste of the Wild, Pacific Stream Canine Formula – Grain free | \$ 6.91 | Salmon | Ocean Fish Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Taste of the Wild, Sierra Mountain Canine Formula – Grain free | \$ 6.91 | Lamb | Lamb Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Taste of the Wild, Southwest Canyon Canine Formula – Grain free | \$ 6.91 | Beef | Peas | Garbanzo Beans | Lamb Meal |

| Kibble | Price per Kilo | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Taste of the Wild, Wetlands Canine Formula – Grain free | \$ 6.91 | Duck | Duck Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Peas |
| Canidae – Lamb & Rice | \$ 7.06 | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice | Cracked pearled barley | Rice Bran |
| Royal Canin Canine Professional Energy 4800 | \$ 7.07 | Dehydrated Poultry Meat | Animal Fats | Rice | Vegetable Protein Isolate |
| Advance Total Wellbeing Large + Breed Adult Dog Food – Chicken | \$ 7.23 | Chicken | Rice | Corn | Sorghum |
| Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork) | \$ 7.28 | Pork Meal | Ground Yellow Corn | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice |
| Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New) | \$ 7.50 | Salmon and Tuna | Oats | Vegetable Protein Concentrate | Fish protein Meal |
| Nutrience – Lamb and Rice | \$ 7.53 | Lamb Meal | Ground Rice | Rice Bran (ingredient splitting) | Canola Oil |
| Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult | \$ 7.72 | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Ground Yellow Corn |
| Eagle Pack – Natural (Lamb & Rice) | \$ 7.72 | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground Yellow Corn | Chicken Fat |
| Artemis – Fresh Mix Adult Dog (Medium and Large Breeds) | \$ 7.75 | Chicken | Chicken Meal | Turkey | Cracked Pearled Barley |
| Royal Canin Giant Adult | \$ 7.86 | Dehydrated Poultry meat | Maize flour | Maize | Animal Fats |
| Earthborn Holistic – Adult Vantage | \$ 8.03 | Chicken Meal | Oatmeal | Ground Barley | Ground Brown Rice |
| Hills Science Diet Canine Adult Large Breed Dog Food | \$ 8.33 | Whole Grain Corn | Chicken By-Product Meal | Soybean Meal | Animal Fat (non specified) |
| Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin | \$ 8.58 | Maize | Fish Meal | Animal Fat | Dried Whole Egg |
| Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food | \$ 8.71 | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal | \$ 8.71 | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Chicken Meal & Rice | \$ 8.71 | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |

| Kibble | Price per Kilo | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|--|----------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Lamb Meal | \$ 8.71 | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Chicken Fat |
| Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion | \$ 8.75 | Whitefish Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Ground Barley | Rye Flour |
| Eukanuba Dog Sensitive Stomach | \$ 8.82 | Brewers Rice | Corn Grits | Chicken By-Product Meal | Corn Meal |
| Earthborn Holistic – Primitive Natural (grain free) | \$ 9.16 | Turkey Meal | Chicken Meal | Whitefish Meal | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free) | \$ 9.16 | Herring Meal | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) | Peas | Canola Oil |
| Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea | \$ 9.19 | Salmon | Salmon meal | Menhaden fish meal | Sweet Potatoes |
| Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food | \$ 9.29 | Brewers Rice | Whole Grain Corn | Corn Gluten Meal | Pork Meal |
| Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Anchovy, Sardine & Salmon | \$ 9.61 | Anchovy & Sardine Meal | Oatmeal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice |
| Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements | \$ 11.32 | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |

Adult Kibble ‘Meat Content’ Comparisons

In this comparison, you will be able to see which kibbles have the most quality meats in the top 4 ingredients. Quality meats does not include Meat By-products or similar.

| Number of Quality Meats | Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|
| 3 | Canidae – All Life Stages Formula | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice |
| 3 | Taste of the Wild, High Prairie Canine Formula – Grain free | Bison | Lamb Meal | Chicken Meal | Sweet Potatoes |
| 3 | Artemis – Fresh Mix Adult Dog (Medium and Large Breeds) | Chicken | Chicken Meal | Turkey | Cracked Pearled Barley |
| 3 | Earthborn Holistic – Primitive Natural (grain free) | Turkey Meal | Chicken Meal | Whitefish Meal | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| 3 | Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements | Chicken Meal | Turkey Meal | Lamb | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| 3 | Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea | Salmon | Salmon meal | Menhaden fish meal | Sweet Potatoes |
| 2 | A La Carte Lamb & Rice Adult | Lamb Meal | Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Cereal |
| 2 | A La Carte Lamb & Rice Puppies | Lamb Meal | Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Cereal |
| 2 | Natural Balance – Regular Energy | Rice | Australian Lamb | Australian Duck | Corn Gluten Meal |
| 2 | Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato | Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal | Salmon Meal | Sweet Potato | Ground Whole Brown Rice |
| 2 | Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Brewers Rice | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| 2 | Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice | Lamb | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |
| 2 | Stay Loyal (online only) https://www.stayloyal.com.au | Chicken Meal | Lamb Meal | Green Peas | Chicken Fat |
| 2 | Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice | Chicken | Wholegrain Wheat | Poultry Meal | Corn Gluten Meal |

| Number of Quality Meats | Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2 | Taste of the Wild, Pacific Stream Canine Formula – Grain free | Salmon | Ocean Fish Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| 2 | Taste of the Wild, Sierra Mountain Canine Formula – Grain free | Lamb | Lamb Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| 2 | Taste of the Wild, Southwest Canyon Canine Formula – Grain free | Beef | Peas | Garbanzo Beans | Lamb Meal |
| 2 | Taste of the Wild, Wetlands Canine Formula – Grain free | Duck | Duck Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Peas |
| 2 | Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New) | Salmon and Tuna | Oats | Vegetable Protein Concentrate | Fish protein Meal |
| 1 | Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Salmon & Sweet Potato | Salmon Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Peas | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| 1 | Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Turkey & Sweet Potato | Turkey Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Peas | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) |
| 1 | Blackhawk – Chicken & Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground Oats | Chicken Fat |
| 1 | Blackhawk – Lamb & Rice | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground Oats | Chicken Fat |
| 1 | Natures Gift Chicken & Rice | Poultry Meals | Wholegrain Wheat | Sacrose | Rice |
| 1 | Canidae – Chicken & Rice | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice | White Rice | Cracked Pearled Barley |
| 1 | Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed | Chicken | Corn Meal | Ground Whole Grain Sorghum | Ground Whole Grain Barley |

| Number of Quality Meats | Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Canidae – Lamb & Rice | Lamb Meal | Brown Rice | Cracked pearled barley | Rice Bran |
| 1 | Advance Total Wellbeing Large + Breed Adult Dog Food – Chicken | Chicken | Rice | Corn | Sorghum |
| 1 | Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork) | Pork Meal | Ground Yellow Corn | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice |
| 1 | Nutrience – Lamb and Rice | Lamb Meal | Ground Rice | Rice Bran (ingredient splitting) | Canola Oil |
| 1 | Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Ground Yellow Corn |
| 1 | Eagle Pack – Natural (Lamb & Rice) | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground Yellow Corn | Chicken Fat |
| 1 | Earthborn Holistic – Adult Vantage | Chicken Meal | Oatmeal | Ground Barley | Ground Brown Rice |
| 1 | Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| 1 | Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| 1 | Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Chicken Meal & Rice | Chicken Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Oatmeal |
| 1 | Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Lamb Meal | Lamb Meal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice | Chicken Fat |
| 1 | Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion | Whitefish Meal | Sweet Potatoes | Ground Barley | Rye Flour |
| 1 | Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free) | Herring Meal | Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content) | Peas | Canola Oil |
| 1 | Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food | Brewers Rice | Whole Grain Corn | Corn Gluten Meal | Pork Meal |
| 1 | Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Anchovy, Sardine & Salmon | Anchovy & Sardine Meal | Oatmeal | Ground Brown Rice | Ground White Rice |
| 1 | California Natural Dog – Adult Chicken & Rice | Chicken Meal | Brown Rice | Rice | Sunflower Oil |
| 0 | Woolworths Homebrand Mince, Marrowbone & Vegetable Flavour | Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products | Meat & Bone Meal | Tallow or Vegetable oil | Limestone |
| 0 | Great Barko (Laucke Mills) | Cooked meat or meat by-products | Cooked fish or fish by-products | Fat | Cooked cereals and wheaten |

| Number of Quality Meats | Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|-------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0 | Uncle Alberts (Laucke Mills) | Cooked Meat or Meat By Products | Cooked Fish or Fish By Products | Cooked cereals and wheaten bran | Canola & Soybean Products |
| 0 | Chum Crunchy – Beef, bone & vegetable flavour | Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products | Vegetable oil and / or tallow | Meat & meat by products | Salt |
| 0 | IGA Beef | Wholegrain Cereals & cereal by-products | Meat & meat by-products | Tallow | Flavour |
| 0 | CopRice Family Dog Food | Natural Cereal grains | Chicken and chicken by-products | Wheat bran | Rice Bran |
| 0 | CopRice Working Dog | Animal Protein meals and by-products | Natural cereal grains | Rice Bran | Wheat bran |
| 0 | Dogpro Original Adult Complete | Wholegrain Cereals | Real meat and meat & Veg by-products | Vegetable oil | Iodised salt |
| 0 | Pedigree Meaty Bites Mince & Vegetables | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wheat &/Or Sorghum &/Or Barley | Wheat Bran | Glycerol |
| 0 | Bonnie Adult Complete | Whole Grain Corn | Meat and meat by-products | Vegetable by-product | Vitamins |
| 0 | Bonnie Working Dog | Cereals and Cereal by-product | Meat and meat by-products | Vegetable by-product | Vitamins |
| 0 | Supercoat Adult Beef | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| 0 | Supercoat Adult Chicken | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |

| Number of Quality Meats | Kibble | 1st Ingredient | 2nd Ingredient | 3rd Ingredient | 4th Ingredient |
|-------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 0 | Supercoat Adult Large Breed | Meat & Meat By-Products | Wholegrain cereals | Cereal bran and/or other cereals | Beet pulp |
| 0 | Woolworths Select – Beef with Vegetable | Maize Gluten | Sorghum | Beef by-product Meal | Poultry by-product meal |
| 0 | Beneful Original (Supermarket) | Wholegrain Cereals (wheat and/or corn) | Meat and meat by-products | Vegetable and vegetable by-products | Sugar |
| 0 | Optimum Adult with Chicken, Vegetables & Rice | Chicken & Chicken by products | Corn | Sorghum | Rice |
| 0 | V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths) | Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Tapioca Starch | Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |
| 0 | V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths) | Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals) | Vegetable and Vegetable Meals | Potato and Tapioca Starch | Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable) |
| 0 | Goodo Dog – Beef | Wholegrain Cereal | Meat and meat by-products | Humectants | Palant |
| 0 | My Dog with Prime Beef | Wholegrain Cereals | Meat & meat by-products | Cereal Protein | Beet pulp |
| 0 | Royal Canin Canine Professional Energy 4800 | Dehydrated Poultry Meat | Animal Fats | Rice | Vegetable Protein Isolate |
| 0 | Royal Canin Giant Adult | Dehydrated Poultry meat | Maize flour | Maize | Animal Fats |
| 0 | Hills Science Diet Canine Adult Large Breed Dog Food | Whole Grain Corn | Chicken By-Product Meal | Soybean Meal | Animal Fat (non specified) |
| 0 | Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin | Maize | Fish Meal | Animal Fat | Dried Whole Egg |
| 0 | Eukanuba Dog Sensitive Stomach | Brewers Rice | Corn Grits | Chicken By-Product Meal | Corn Meal |



Working with a Lean Great Dane

Some Great Danes can be hard work when it comes to keeping them in good condition.

Great Danes generally do not fully physically mature until they are 3–4 years of age. By this age they will have filled out and look like an adult Great Dane which can be an impressive sight.

Some Great Danes particularly under 3 years of age can be on the lean side. Some are all their lives.

If you have one of these lean Great Danes it is recommended that you have your Vet check over your Dane to ensure there is no obvious reason for the condition.

There are some things you may like to try to assist in putting weight on an 'adult' Great Dane (not suitable for puppies):

- Some Danes simply need more food, therefore increase the amount of food you give. In some rescue dogs this can be 500 grams of good quality kibble such as Canidae or Stay Loyal 2 or 3 times a day if they'll eat it. If you feed budget kibble you'll end up feeding more and having much bigger stools.
- Porridge with Rice milk.
- A supplement to assist in normal digestion such as: Inner Health, Yakult, Thrive D Powder or Dr Goodpet Digestive Powder.
- A calming supplement if your dog is nervy / highly-strung / not emotionally balanced such as PetArk Calm, Vetalogica Tranquil Formula.
- Lamb Flaps (may be too high in fat for some dogs)
- Eukanuba 30/20 or Eukanuba Active Performance has also been successful at putting on weight, however may be too fatty for some Danes and they may continue to have soft stools on it.
- Satin Balls – this is a recipe of a food you can make yourself. It may be too fatty and should only be used short term. We recommend you only make up a small batch to start with as some dogs do not like them. (Recipe on upcoming pages)

Whatever method you choose it is important to only allow gradual weight gain.



Working with Emaciated Great Danes

Emotional stress is one of the most common reasons why Danes drop a lot of weight.

Stress can prevent the digestive system from functioning correctly. When an animal is stressed or gets an adrenalin burst the body diverts energy away from the digestive system to the muscles for the Flight or Fight mode – you may know this as ‘Survival Mode’.

Some Great Danes also require much more food than other Great Danes, so under feeding even unintentionally can cause a dog to become underweight or emaciated.

In stressed, nervy, highly-strung & emotionally unbalanced dogs (including those who show aggressive tendencies as they are usually fear based) should be placed on a dietary supplement to help calm their mind. Where dietary supplements do not seem to have an effect after several months you may like speak with your Vet & Behaviourist about a combined prescription medication & behavioural modification program.

Step 1: Visit your Vet to see if there is an underlying reason why the dog could be underweight.

Step 2: Increase the calorie intake, if the dog will actually eat then this is a positive thing. In our rescue dogs we can feed them up to 500 grams of a quality kibble such as Canidae/Stay Loyal 3–4 times a day if they will actually eat it.

If the dog will not eat, you will then need to decipher if this is a habit problem e.g. the dog has been allowed to take a long time to eat – in this case put the food down for 15 minutes and then pick it up and put it away so the dog learns it must eat within the given time frame.

The dog may not like the food on offer, so if after 24 hours it is still refusing to eat you will need to start investigating ways to encourage the dog to eat (avoiding hand feeding where possible) such as using Liver sprinkles, Sardines in tomato sauce mixed in the kibble, BBQ Chicken mixed in, a little bit of canned food mixed in with the kibble or change to a meat based diet such as BARF. Also try to warm the meal up.

Some premium Brands pet foods do offer a canned food selection (not supermarket canned food) that you can get from your pet warehouse such as Pet Barn / Pet Stock etc.

Call your Vet for guidance if after 48 hours the dog still will not eat.

Step 3: Add a supplement such as PetArk Calm, Vetalogica Tranquil Formula or Greenpet Nerve Tonic to the dogs meal every day and use ongoing to help calm the dog's emotional state. You can double dose this in very nervy dogs to start with.

Step 4: Add a supplement to assist in normal digestion such as: Inner Health / Yakult / Thrive D Powder / Dr Goodpet Digestive Powder.

Satin Balls Recipe for Lean Great Danes

4.53kg raw hamburger mince (regular, with fat)

567grams Wheat Germ

1 large box of Oatmeal (uncooked)

340 grams of Sanitarium Weetbix (small box) or any basic Multigrain cereal

1 cups Vegetable Oil

10 eggs (boiled in shell for 30 seconds)

10 envelopes of unflavoured Gelatine

1¼ cups unflavoured Molasses (also known as Treacle)

2 teaspoons Kelp

1 cup of ground Flaxseed

A pinch of salt

Garlic to taste

Method

Mix all ingredients together well, (much like a meat-loaf) and then put into separate freezer bags and freeze. Thawing out as needed.

It puts weight on in a very short time, but may not be suitable to all Danes. The fat content may be too high and should not be given to emaciated dogs.

It can be fed alone or with kibble.

This diet is not suitable for growing Great Dane puppies.