

Feeding Your New Dog

CURRENT DIET: Unless on a prescription or special diet, all dogs at HSCC are fed a mix of wet and dry food twice a day. Food brands vary depending on what is donated. Refer to the dog food packaging for suggested feeding amounts or check with your veterinarian.

Note: Switching your dog to a new diet right away could cause him/her to have an upset tummy! Your new dog may have diarrhea for a few days as their system adjusts to the new diet. If the diarrhea continues for more than a few days, contact your veterinarian.

Nutrition is important! Before selecting a diet, be sure to look at the ingredient list on the packaging, paying particular attention to the first three ingredients--they should be either meat or meat meal (not a by-product).



No matter what you feed your dog, do it in moderation. Be sure to feed your dog equal measured amounts twice daily (three times for puppies) to keep your dog from overeating, unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian. You can help your dog stay healthy through a high quality diet balanced with lots of exercise. Keeping your dog at a healthy weight will help keep them healthy in the long term. After all, overweight dogs are susceptible to developing many health issues including diabetes as well as joint and mobility problems, and even the inability to groom normally.

Energetic dog? Use a food puzzle! Food puzzles or occupiers such as Kongs can keep your dog engaged and enriched for hours. Chewing is a natural behavior for dogs that alleviates stress and boredom, which are some of the biggest causes of common dog behavior issues. You can use a food puzzle or occupier to feed your dog their regular meals, or just to give them treats. For tips on the best ways to stuff a Kong, [click here](#); for other ideas for occupiers and food puzzles, [click here](#).



Protip: *No need to use a bowl to feed your dog! Rather than feeding out of a bowl, consider using your dog's food throughout the day to reward all kinds of desirable behaviors like four feet on the floor, looking at you, coming when called, paying attention to their name, going to their bed, going to their crate, sitting as a greeting, and any other behaviors you want to see repeated.*