



We are what we eat! And the same can be said for our pets. A healthy, age appropriate diet is an important step in ensuring your dog has a long and active life.



Fur Life Vet provides health and wellbeing information for you to help care for your pets throughout their lives.

## Dental care

**What you feed your dog can impact their teeth, this can lead to other general health problems.**

- + Dental chews are a great treat to help keep dogs teeth and gums healthy.
- + Regular Veterinary dental checks are important to identify issues early.

## Toxic food for dogs

**Many foods we enjoy can be toxic or dangerous for dogs to consume. Some of the foods that fall into this category are:**

- Alcohol
- Cooked bones
- Avocado
- Chocolate
- Coffee/caffeine
- Excessive fat
- Green parts of tomato plants
- Grapes
- Raisins and currants
- Human vitamins and medications
- Liquorice
- Walnuts and macadamias
- Onions, chives and garlic
- Mushrooms
- Xylitol (chewing gum and candy)



**GET VET CHECKED NOW**

[furlifevet.com.au](http://furlifevet.com.au)



# Dog Nutrition

A nutritious diet at every life stage will help ensure the long term health of your dog



# Changing diet for each life stage

Making sure your dog receives a nutritious and age appropriate diet, exercise, and regular visits to your Vet for health and dental check-ups will help keep him happy, healthy and active throughout their life.

Remember to ask your Vet to recommend the best diet to meet your dog's needs.

## Puppies

Raising a healthy, happy puppy requires proper nutrition. It's important that what you feed your puppy contains the right balance of nutrients to ensure energy requirements are met and digestive development and immune system are supported.

Ideally, the amount you feed your puppy should be based on the expected growth rate of your breed of dog. Overfeeding can cause excess weight gain, obesity in adulthood and joint and bone issues in large breed puppies. If you're unsure about what expected adult bodyweight should be, ask your Vet when you take your pup for their initial health check.

Most puppies arrive at their new homes at eight weeks of age and are being fed three to four times per day. The number of meals will vary depending on age, starting with four meals a day before transitioning to three, and then to two for the balance of your dog's life. The diet you select for your puppy should be specifically suited to their size, breed and age.

**Ask the person you obtained the puppy from about their feeding methods (number of meals per day, brand/type of food, etc.).**



## Adults

When a puppy reaches adulthood, a maintenance diet should be selected that meets the adult dog's requirements. The diet should take into account the dog's size, activity level, and individual health requirements.

Keeping your dog on two meals a day can help to reduce the incidence of bloat in breeds predisposed to that condition, and helps to reduce flatulence.

## Ageing

As your dog ages nutritional requirements change. They may be less active and therefore require less energy intake. In this instance, keeping a high-energy intake may result in your dog becoming overweight. As your pet ages diets that contain nutrients such as glucosamine, omega-3 oils and antioxidants may help to keep you dog active and assist their body to manage the effects of aging, maintaining vitality into their golden years.

An older dog's nutritional needs can vary according to breed, size and any health-related issues.

**Regular check-ups** with your Vet can identify any health issues your dog may have. Your Vet can screen for any health issues and provide a recommendation for an appropriate diet that meets your pet's age and activity requirements during these visits.

# Obesity

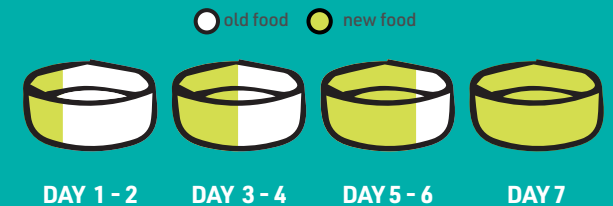
Maintaining a healthy weight for your dog is extremely important. Many common health issues are directly associated with excessive weight gain such as:

- + Skin problems.
- + Respiratory problems.
- + Diabetes and heart disease.
- + Mobility and joint problems.
- + Premature ageing.

## Things to remember

- + Your dog should always have access to clean, fresh water.
- + Never change your dog's diet suddenly, unless advised to by your Vet. Sudden changes can result in your dog suffering from diarrhoea and other digestive problems.

## A seven day diet change guideline



- + **It's very important to transition your puppies diet even slower than our seven day guide.** Switching abruptly to a new food and routine can cause unpleasant digestive upsets for your puppy.
- + Always keep food and water bowls clean by washing and rinsing them thoroughly. Replace plastic bowls regularly.
- + Feed treats responsibly to avoid weight gain and maintain a balanced diet.