

What brand should you feed your dog? HOW TO GRADE DOG FOOD

Feeding a great dog food helps to ensure a vibrant, healthy dog companion for life. Please take a minute to check your dog's food and don't just rely on the advertising when you choose one—*his/her* quality of life depends on it.

START WITH A GRADE OF 100.

- 1) For every listing of "by- product", subtract 10 points.
- 2) For every non- specific source ("meat" or "poultry" or "meal" or "fat") reference, subtract 10 points.
- 3) If the food contains BHA, BHT or ethoxyquin, subtract 10 points.
- 4) For every grain "mill run" or non- specific grain source, subtract 5 points.
- 5) If the same grain ingredient is used 2 or more times in the first five ingredients, for example, ground brown rice, brewers rice, rice flour are all the same grain, subtract 5 points.
- 6) If the protein sources are not meat and there are less than 2 meats in the top 3 ingredients, subtract 3 points.
- 7) If it contains any artificial colorants, subtract 3 points.
- 8) If it contains ground corn or whole grain corn, subtract 3 points.
- 9) If corn is listed in the top 5 ingredients, subtract 2 more points.
- 10) If the food contains any animal fat other than fish oil, subtract 2 points.
- 11) If lamb is the only animal protein source, subtract 2 points.
- 12) If it contains soy or soybeans, subtract 2 points.
- 13) If it contains wheat, subtract 2 points.
- 14) If it contains beef, subtract 2 points.
- 15) If it contains salt, subtract 1 point.

EXTRA CREDIT:

- 1) If any of the meat sources are organic, add 5 points.
- 2) If the food is endorsed by a registered nutritionist, add 5 points.
- 3) If the food is baked and not extruded, add 5 points.
- 4) If the food contains probiotics, add 3 points.
- 5) If the food contains fruit, add 3 points.
- 6) If the food contains vegetables (NOT corn or other grains), add 3 points.
- 7) If the animal sources are hormone-free and antibiotic-free, add 2 points.
- 8) If the food contains barley, add 2 points.
- 9) If the food contains flax seed oil (not just the seeds), add 2 points.
- 10) If the food contains oats or oatmeal, add 1 point.
- 11) If the food contains sunflower oil, add 1 point.
- 12) For every different specific animal protein source (other than the first one: count "chicken" and "chicken meal" as only one protein source, but count "chicken" and "lamb" as 2 different sources), add 1 point.
- 13) If it contains glucosamine and chondroitin, add 1 point.
- 14) If the vegetables have been tested as pesticide free, add 1 point.

Now, check the score:

- 94 – 100+ = A
86 – 93 = B
78 – 85 = C
70 – 77 = D
—70 = F

Foods Already Scored:

Poor dog food is like eating at the *golden arches* (McD's) every meal and wondering why your dog is overweight, dull, lethargic or allergy-prone.

ALPO PRIME CUTS / SCORE 81 = C

ARTEMIS LARGE/MED BREED PUPPY / SCORE 114 = A+

AUTHORITY HARVEST BAKED / SCORE 116 = A+

AUTHORITY HARVEST BAKED LESS ACTIVE / SCORE 93 = B

BEOWULF BACK TO BASICS / SCORE 101 = A+

BIL-JAC SELECT / SCORE 68 = F

BLACKWOOD 3000 LAMB AND RICE / SCORE 83 = C

BLUE BUFFALO CHICKEN AND RICE / SCORE 106 = A+

BURNS CHICKEN AND BROWN RICE / SCORE 107 = A+

CANIDAE / SCORE 112 = A+
CANINE CAVIAR / SCORE = 121 A+
CHICKEN SOUP SENIOR / SCORE = 115 A+
DIAMOND MAINTENANCE / SCORE 64 = F
DIAMOND LAMB MEAL & RICE / SCORE 92 = B
DIAMOND LARGE BREED / SCORE 99 = A
DIAMOND PERFORMANCE / SCORE 85 = C
DICK VAN PATTENS NATURAL BALANCE ULTRA SUPREME / SCORE 122 = A+
DICK VAN PATTENS NATURAL BALANCE VENISON & BROWN RICE / SCORE 106 = A+
DICK VAN PATTENS DUCK & POTATO / SCORE 106 = A+
EAGLE PACK HOLISTIC / SCORE 102 = A+
EUKANUBA ADULT / SCORE 81 = C
EUKANUBA PUPPY / SCORE 79 = C
FLINT RIVER SENIOR / SCORE 101 = A+
FOUNDATIONS / SCORE 106 = A+
HUND-N-FLOCKEN ADULT BY SOLID GOLD / SCORE = 93 B
IAMS LAMB MEAL & RICE / SCORE 73 D
INNOVA DOG / SCORE 114 = A+
INNOVA EVO / SCORE 114 = A+
INNOVA LARGE BREED PUPPY / SCORE 122 = A+
KIRKLAND SIGNATURE CHICKEN,RICE,VEG. / SCORE 110 = A+
MEMBER MARK CHICKEN & RICE / SCORE 84 = C
MERRICK WILDERNESS BLEND / SCORE 127 = A+
NATURE RECIPE / SCORE 100 = A
NATURE RECIPE HEALTHY SKIN VEN. / SCORE 116 = A+NUTRO MAX ADULT / SCORE 93 = B
NUTRO NATURAL CHOICE OATMEAL / SCORE 101 = A+
NUTRO NATURAL CHOICE LAMB & RICE / SCORE 98 = A
NUTRO NATURAL CHOICE LARGE BREED PUPPY / SCORE 87 = B
NUTRO ULTRA ADULT / SCORE 104 = A+
PURINA BENEFUL / SCORE 17 = F
PURINA DOG / SCORE 62 = F
ROYAL CANIN NATURAL BLEND ADULT / SCORE 106 = A+
SCIENCE DIET ADVANCED SENIOR / SCORE 63 = F
SCIENCE DIET PUPPY / SCORE 69 = F
SOLID GOLD / SCORE 99 = A
TIMBERWOLF ORGANICS / SCORE 120 = A+
SOJO'S COMPLETE/ SCORE 122= A++