

PUPPY/DOG MENU

Up to 3 to 4 months: 3 meals a day; 1 kibble and lowfat or non-fat live culture yogurt or cottage cheese; 1 kibble with cooked vegetables or V-8 juice, or grated raw fruit; 1 kibble with raw meat. 250 mg of Vitamin C, 4 to 6 drops echinacea with goldenseal (or 1 capsule) while going through the shot schedule.

Age 3 to 4 months and up: 2 meals a day; 1 kibble with Vitamin C, yogurt or cottage cheese and warm water; 1 kibble with Vitamin C, Vitamin E, 1/2 tsp. Solid Gold Sea Meal, echinacea with goldenseal; and meat OR fruit OR vegetables. At four months 1 tsp Solid Gold Sea Meal in evening meal.

Use only “natural” kibbles preserved with Vitamin C and Vitamin E (or some say ascorbic acid and mixed tocopherols which is vitamin C and vitamin E). Stay away from foods that use preservatives such as BHA, BHT, ethoxyquin or propyl galate. Some examples of naturally preserved kibbles are: Nutro Natural Choice, Natural Life, Natural Balance, Costco/Price Club’s Nutra Nuggets Lamb and Rice (not their Kirkland brand –though you can switch them to their brand lamb, rice and vegetables at about 2 years old) made by Diamond Feeds. Stay away from such kibbles as Chuck Wagon, Purina, etc. or the soft moist foods that you find in most markets. The old saying “You get what you pay for” applies here. The yogurt or cottage cheese can be continued indefinitely if the dog likes it. The homemade food can be used indefinitely also (2 parts stewed vegetables, 1 part cooked or raw heart, kidney, etc., 2 parts brown rice or barley). If you don’t feel like cooking the homemade food, follow the recommendations in “A Word to the Wise”.

Remember, while young puppy bones and muscles are developing (and this puppy will be very slow maturing - taking two to four years to reach maturity) keeping them fat is **not** good for them. A young dog slightly on the thin side will be much healthier in the long run. Two meals a day for the duration of the dog’s life is a good idea, especially for Weimaraners - a breed susceptible to bloat - a condition that is almost always fatal unless you can get the dog to a vet within a 1/2 hour. Do not heavily exercise the dog just before and just after meals.

As mentioned above, meals should be moistened with warm water or vegetable or meat juice. Table scraps are fine - vegetables, small amounts of cooked fat trimmings, the water you cook vegetables or meat in - lots of fats or starchy foods and gravies are hard on young digestive systems. **NO ONIONS PLEASE** (cooked or raw), but small amounts of garlic is OK. If you’re not cooking on a particular day, add canned or frozen vegetables or fruit as mentioned in “A Word to the Wise”.

PLEASE do not give real bones of any kind except raw knuckle bones or cow leg bones. The dogs love to get the marrow out of them and they are great for satisfying the puppy chewing that is inevitable and for keeping teeth clean. Nylabones, (not Gummabones!) are fine, as well as boiled or oven-dried cow leg bones as long as you keep an eye on them and they don’t start to splinter. Also the rope chews are popular with Weimaraners - but be sure they are 100% cotton not nylon and made in the USA! Do not buy **anything** made in China, not treats, not toys, nothing!

You will not develop a finicky eater if you give the dog 20 minutes to eat - what he does not finish, put it, or throw it, away, and do not feed him again - not even snacks - until the next scheduled mealtime. A dog will not starve himself to death, and missing one or two meals never hurt any dog. However, if he persists in refusing food for 24 hours, especially as a puppy, take him to a vet. Also watch the stools, a well-formed stool is an indication of a healthy dog.

PLEASE DO NOT pour all kinds of supplements and vitamins down your dog’s throat - except those recommended above and Vitamin C in increasing doses as explained to you. Their value is questionable and sometimes harmful. Please do give the Vitamin C in divided doses, it is beneficial to this breed. The yogurt or cottage cheese should be sufficient extra calcium - your puppy should not need any more. At about 4 to 6 months of age, the addition of 1 tsp. of Solid Gold Sea Meal supplies the micronutrients needed by this breed.

Feed sufficient amounts to meet the demands of a growing puppy, or in the older dog the demands of his/her exercise level. A good rule of thumb is that the pup’s/dog’s ribs are just covered with a thin layer of fat but no rolls of fat over the shoulders, or “dimple” or roll of fat above the tail. This diet is about the same price or less expensive than many high priced kibbles or canned foods, and much better for them as their German genes and background indicates. The kibble should be a lamb/rice formula with little or no beet pulp or fish as evidenced by how far down the list of ingredients on the label it is. We find the Costco/Price Club Nutra Nuggets Lamb and Rice kibble (made for them by Diamond Feeds) is the best kibble we can find for the price and comparable to many more expensive natural kibbles. Continue the vegetables, yogurt or cottage cheese, fruit, and Solid Gold Sea Meal for the lifetime of the dog.

A biscuit at bedtime (make sure these are naturally preserved too) helps tide the dog over the night and makes bedtime a pleasant experience.

BON(E) APPETIT AND HAPPY PUPPYHOOD!!!