

A WORD TO THE WISE

In the almost 42 years I've been involved with Weimaraners, it has occurred to me that it is absolutely ludicrous to assume that any one commercial dog food is likely to provide optimum nutrition, therefore health, for *all* breeds. Rhodesian Ridgebacks developed in South Africa, Chow Chows developed in China, Weimaraners developed in Germany, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers developed on the east coast of America, Alaskan Malamutes developed in the Arctic, and Dogo Argentinos developed in the tropical climate of South America couldn't possibly obtain maximum nutrition and health from the same formula commercial dog food whatever the manufacturer's claims.

Ideally, our dogs should be fed fresh foods not highly processed and preserved commercial foods. Recognizing that in this day and age with our mostly hectic lifestyles, it is not feasible to cook for our dogs (especially if we have more than one and especially if they belong to more than one breed), the enclosed feeding recommendations have been developed by us over many years of heartbreak and trial and error. Be thankful you don't have an Alaskan Malamute or Samoyed which would do best on fresh whale and seal meat, fish and blubber!

We must keep in mind that many years ago, the recommended levels of nutrients in processed dog foods were developed by testing on beagles. The latest research and testing reveals that different breeds have different requirements for many of the nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, fatty acids, etc. as befits the far-flung corners of the globe where the different breeds were developed, the soil conditions, the normal food crops, and what foods the breed was fed as it was being fine-tuned and according to the work it was required to do. It seems the latest research indicates that beagles have very different requirements than many breeds. Surprise!

By the way, flourine in your water supply can be very harmful to dogs. In contrast to the benefits humans derive from it, it can cause tooth mottling during the period of calcification of the permanent teeth, and cause a calcium and phosphorus imbalance.

Also be aware of the chemicals in use around your house and yard. Bug and weed sprays can be very dangerous especially as our dogs are a lot closer to the ground and don't wear shoes. If you can't stand to live with the bugs or the weeds, at least board the dog with us or some other reputable kennel, for a week until the effects on your dog are greatly mitigated.

Please do measure the amounts of kibble you give your dog or how else can you know to increase or decrease your dog's intake according to its nutritional and exercise level requirements? We use a plain old plastic 1 cup measure. It's then easy to add or subtract from each day's consumption.

Solid Gold Sea Meal is formulated from kelp and contains many wonderful micronutrients and I believe satisfies this breed's unique mineral requirements as evidenced by the soil conditions in the area of Germany where the breed was developed.

Remember, for the adult dog the following recommendations are best:

AM feeding: kibble as the base, 1/2 tsp of granulated garlic and 1000 mg of timed release Vitamin C with warm water. Add a spoonful of yogurt for intestinal health.

PM feeding: kibble as the base, fruit (apple, pear, grapes, citrus except lemon & grapefruit, apricot, whatever is in season or is available in your house), OR lightly stewed vegetables of all kinds with or without barley added, OR substitute 1/3 to 1/2 can vegetables of any kind (or frozen, about 1/2 cup thawed & warmed in microwave oven), OR 1/3 cup of V-8 juice, OR a cooked egg, OR a good spoonful of canned mackerel OR 1/2 cup cottage cheese or plain yogurt, with warm water. Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Solid Gold Sea Meal. I also add Vitamin E and another Vitamin C if growing, teething, or during the vaccine schedule.

For added meat, add whatever scraps are left over from cooking or preparing dinner. Occasionally I make a batch of chicken pudding:

Chicken Pudding Recipe

Take one whole chicken and pressure cook for about 1 hour. The bones will be crumbly. Cool and shred meat off bones crushing bones in your fingers discarding any that are still rather hard. Put meat, crushed bones, skin and liquid in blender and puree. Refrigerate. It will form a gelatinous "pudding". I give a heaping tablespoonful to each dog in the evening meal. Note: this recipe has way too much fat for young puppies and I would recommend you not feed it until the dog is at least 8 months to a year old.

Be careful how much raw or cooked meat you add to your dog's diet. The beef, pork and chicken industries add many hormones and antibiotics to the feed of the animals so that they grow more quickly and can be marketed sooner. The lamb industry doesn't use as many additives if any at all, and since goat meat isn't usually sold for human consumption in this country it's a pretty safe bet. Turkey is also pretty safe, as, if turkeys are fed hormones and antibiotics they drop dead, so the turkey industry doesn't use them.