

Pet Food – Advice and Suggestions

With the tainted pet food recalls recently, please check what you are feeding your dogs. Realize that the better food (usually!) you feed the better it is for your dog. Below are some points that come to mind that are worth sharing. We just hope to help you have a happier, healthier and long-lived dog! As a general rule, foods purchased in grocery stores are usually not the quality you want to feed your pet.

1. It is best to NOT feed corn, or corn gluten, and now we know that even wheat in our dog foods can be dangerous. Dogs can't digest corn and corn can be a source of the deadly aflatoxin, which is what killed so many dogs in the Diamond dog food recall last year. If there is no corn in your pet food then there is no danger of your dog dying from ingesting aflatoxin. Check the ingredients on the label of your food. Dogs are not grain eaters by nature, so feed a food that has more meat and less grain.
2. It is also very good to NOT feed just one dry food because, just like us, our pets stand a better chance of getting a balanced diet if they have a varied diet. I know, we've always been told to not change our pet's food, but that is just a marketing tool to keep you from buying different brands. I personally rotate among several premium brands and my dogs never have diarrhea. Most of the time dogs develop diarrhea when a food is changed BECAUSE they don't eat a varied diet. I switch between Avoderm, Pinnacle, Wellness, Eagle, Health Wise, Canidae, California Natural etc. These brands normally must be purchased in a feed store. You might find a feed store that handles premium brands close to you. Yes, these foods are more expensive, but for \$5 a bag you might spend, you will be spending less at the vet and hopefully over the long run your dog will live longer! They are what they eat and what they don't eat!!
3. I check my dog food label every time I buy a bag because formulas change and good companies are often purchased by huge conglomerates, whose bottom line is profit, not providing the best food for your pet. Such an example is Iams...once a good food, now not nearly so. When a grain is cheaper the percentage usually goes up in the formula. Protein is more expensive, of course, so many companies add more grains than meat normally. Remember, that if the bag lists meat or meat meal first but then lists three grains next (say, white rice, brown rice, oatmeal), you are feeding more grains than meat even when meat is listed first. Don't be fooled! Dogs are carnivores and they need meat. In our breed too, remember to feed chicken or turkey protein whenever you can. They are lowest in purines and that is important for urinary health in the Dalmatian.
4. Why pay a company to cook fruits and vegetables when they are much better for your pet raw? Why not chop or dice such things as carrots, celery, broccoli, lettuce, zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, etc. for your dog and add it to the meal? One tip: dark skins of zucchini and cucumbers are high purine (bad for Dalmatians) so do peel those veggies. Add flax or salmon (fish) oils for health skin and coat... and usually less shedding.
5. Also, remember to FLOAT the food for your Dalmatian. Force your dog to drink more water than he normally would for urinary health. Last year at the Dalmatian national show a breeder veterinarian performed ultrasounds on 256 well-bred, healthy, young show dogs (Dalmatians) and found that 50% of the dogs had discernible stones or sediment in their bladders. Fifty percent! This despite the fact that most breeders will float their dog's food. SO, if you don't float your dog's food in water twice a day you could quite possibly help your dog develop a bladder or urinary stone. You don't need to SOAK the food, but FLOAT it in enough water to cover the food (like you float your own cereal in milk). This is a very important maintenance technique to keep your dog healthy!
6. I have been adding RAW ground turkey to my dog's diet to make a modified raw meal. My old boy who is now 15.5 yrs is doing better today than when he was 14 yrs old, the age when I started feeding the raw meat. If you can add uncooked raw turkey or chicken parts to your dog's diet to eat, that is even better. Raw meats have enzymes which are healthy and help control cancer, which is killing dogs at earlier and earlier ages and at alarming rates. Cooked foods are also void of Vitamin C too which is most important for healthy ligaments and tendons. There is an epidemic of dogs blowing their ACL's and needing \$2,000-3,000 surgeries to fix them. Vitamin C in a diet will usually prevent such a condition.
7. If interested in knowing more about raw feeding, you might visit <http://www.barfworld.com/> or <http://www.njboxers.com/faqs.htm> or http://www.seefido.com/html/your_pet_and_barf_diets.htm. Considering how unhealthy our pet foods are becoming, this is a good time to learn more about this. If one company purposely adds chemicals to make the protein level higher in the ingredient they are selling to pet food companies, how are we to know? This is exactly what has been found with the recent problem with products purchased in China. If you love your pet, please know what you are feeding him or her! I have many, many friends who feed their dogs totally raw diets and none have ever had a problem with e-coli or salmonella in the dogs or with the family as long as they wash their hands and countertops.
8. For excellent info on commercial dog foods & raw feeding, we highly recommend subscribing to www.whole-dog-journal.com. This magazine evaluates pet foods and it is very important information to know. They explain what you are feeding your dog, how foods are processed, developed, and marketed. Also, you'll find great training tips and natural health care, all of which are better for your dog than many pharmaceuticals used. This is a tremendous source of valuable information for your dogs! In the most recent article on foods, premium brands were rated in the high 90's... i.e., 95, 98, etc. BEWARE, according to their measurements, Purina's Beneful rated ONLY 3. It is a food marketed to be "healthy and natural" but it is very poor in quality. Stay away from it!

Joint Pain and Inflammation Info...

Joint pain and inflammation medicines are not without their share of problems. Rimadyl and Deramax are both effective pharmaceuticals, **BUT** can also be very dangerous for your pet's health. We've had one foster dog go into liver failure within just two days of taking Rimadyl. That was 14 yrs ago and then it cost \$600 to save his life. He was touch and go for days. I have also had two vets tell me about Deramax, the newer product, which has sent many dogs to the emergency room or even CSU, and many did not live. You just don't know which animal will respond poorly until it is too late. SO, we suggest you check out joint health products at <http://www.calvetsupply.com/>. We use Arthritisoothe Gold (contains glucosamine, chondroitin, MSM and HA, plus natural anti-inflammatories and Vitamins C and E) from this site for our foster dogs that need relief from pain. Duralactin (a milk protein) is another product that works wonders too. In bad cases, these two products work well together. California Veterinary Supply is very reasonably priced and the products are natural and safe. They have a discount club that costs \$20 to join but you'll get it back soon in great savings on each bottle.



It's Heartworm Season... Is your Dal protected?

Don't forget that it is now heartworm season! With all the moisture we've had this year, we're likely to have quite a mosquito population this summer. Many Katrina dogs have come to Colorado and with many dogs moving here from other heartworm problem areas, we're sure to see an increase in the number of dogs with heartworm in Colorado....which untreated will kill your dog. Now is the time to do a blood test to make sure your dog is not heartworm positive, and put them on the monthly curative. Heartgard (<http://www.heartgard.com>) and the like are not preventatives, but they kill whatever microfilaria (baby worms) your dog has contracted in the past 45 days. The company recommends giving a monthly pill, however, to assure that your dog is covered. Most people can remember once a month better than once every six weeks. BUT, if you wish to poison your dog less often, go thru your calendar (that you actually look at) and count out six weeks from the first pill given. Put a LARGE RED X on the dates every six weeks. Then you spend less on medication and poison your dog less. Heartgard will kill microfilaria contracted 45 days before. You can also just choose to blood test every 6 months and if the dog is clear of heartworms, he is fine. If microfilaria are found, then just put the dog on Heartgard for the next six months and retest. He should be clear at that time. This is being done in many areas with active heartworm now. But, you can't forget to blood test because if the dog has contracted heartworm and is not treated it will have to go the more expensive and more toxic route of injection and rest for 4 weeks. My vet told me (in Ft. Collins) that he has never seen a positive heartworm west of I-25. Not sure if that holds everywhere, but apparently does here.



Introducing Our Newest Fundraising Program!!!



Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado has just been registered on GoodSearch, as seen in *Oprah Magazine*, *ABC News*, and *The New York Times*. Now we will receive a direct donation every time your supporters use GoodSearch to search the Internet! GoodSearch is the search engine with a unique social mission. It's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great search results. GoodSearch donates 50% of advertising revenue to the nonprofits and schools selected by its users. Now you can make a difference in the lives of many Dalmatians simply by using GoodSearch to search the Internet! I REALLY hope you'll use GoodSearch first to help raise money for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. Please tell others too. I don't find GS as good as Google when I'm searching, but I start there and then go to Google should I need to. For every hit we get a \$0.01 donation... doesn't sound like much, but just like pennies in your piggy bank – THEY ADD UP FAST! Just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and then in the "WHO DO YOU GOODSEARCH FOR?" box enter "Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado (Fort Collins, CO)" and click the "verify" button. Once that's done, enter your search and go. Happy Searching and thanks for helping us!

Foster Homes URGENTLY Needed!!!!

Remember, we **ALWAYS** need foster homes! Foster homes save lives! **We currently have 5 dogs needing us and nowhere to put them.** Maybe you would like a second (or third) dog...there are always more dogs available than homes available. Please tell your friends and family about Dalmatian Rescue. You never know where a new adopter and a new home might come from.

Please remember that you can always access the Foster Application from our website!

http://www.dalmatianrescue.org/forms/foster_app.htm

Wanted! Your Happy Beginning Stories

Please, if you have not sent us a **Happy Beginning** story on your dog, do it now! We love to read the stories & see pics of happy Dals! That is our reward for all the volunteer work we do for our beloved breed. Check out other's stories on our website.

http://www.dalmatianrescue.org/happy_endings/happy_endings.htm.

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatian



“Pongo101”

Description: 4 years old, Black Neutered Male

Location: Other Shelter – Wasatch Humane in Bountiful, UT 801-299-8508 cheryl@wasatchhumane.org

Reason: Owner surrender

Comments: Pongo is a very sweet, intelligent and loyal dog who has had a life of turmoil, being bounced around from home to home. He is a bit hard of hearing, but not totally deaf. While he doesn't play nicely with some other MALE dogs or TINY kids, he is affectionate and otherwise calm, housetrained, friendly, and very playful. If you have room in your heart and home (without real young kids), please give Pongo a second chance to be happy and loved. Even if to foster him! Pongo is a shelter favorite and they say he is a real character. He will entertain himself in silly ways, without being destructive. He finds fun in all that he can. Pongo can live easily with a female dog. Poor Pongo is stressing heavily as seen by the way he has chewed on and sucked his feet. Nothing but stress! It will stop when he has attention and exercise and a soft bed! Please consider this darling boy because he needs out of the shelter. No dog should be confined for months on end!! He'll make you smile!! He'll make you laugh! For more information, contact Wasatch Humane in Bountiful, UT. 801-299-8508 or cheryl@wasatchhumane.org.

Featured Happy Beginning Story



“Cassi”

I recently had to put my previous Dalmatian, Tristen to sleep in December. Naturally I had to start looking for a new special companion. I met then Lilly, now Cassi, through Dalmatian Rescue. Even though she was very wary and distrustful, she fell asleep on the couch as I was visiting her. She was very skittish the first couple of weeks after I adopted her. We now have a close bond. She gets so excited when I come home from work. She loves going to the dog park and looking for squirrels on our walks. She is truly a sweetheart and I'm so happy we found each other

If you have any ideas on other fundraising projects that we might be able to use, please tell us all about it!

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible!!
6828 Rim Rock Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80526 **Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963** Fax: 970-377-9509
<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>

Please submit ideas and suggestions for **NewSpots** to dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net