



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

## Puppy Raising Nutritional Policy

We appreciate the cooperation of all raisers and leaders in complying with the following puppy raising nutritional policy.

Research has shown, and GDB experience concurs, that effective weight management of puppies and mature dogs through the feeding of large breed diets or proper management of feeding amounts helps limit certain canine orthopedic maladies and promotes general health and longevity. Puppy club leaders and Community Field Representatives (CFRs) will educate raisers on feeding puppies, and proper weight, and [Body Condition Scoring \(BCS\)](#) .

At the GDB puppy kennel, prior to placement in a raiser home, puppies are fed Purina Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice Formula.

Raisers will feed a puppy formula from the list below until the puppy reaches 12 months of age.

At 12 months of age, or when the CFR recommends, raisers will transition to an approved adult formula. Eukanuba Adult Large Breed (Chicken 1<sup>st</sup> Ingredient) is fed to dogs in training on campus.

*Dog food packaging can change over time, and many formulas can look very similar; please be sure to check each bag carefully when purchased and ensure you are not choosing “grain free” or any other variation of the list below.*

### Approved Puppy Diets

#### Preferred

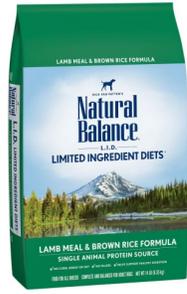
					
Purina Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice Formula	Eukanuba Large Breed Puppy	Hills Science Diet Puppy Large Breed Lamb Meal and Rice	Iams Proactive Health Smart Puppy Large Breed	Natural Balance Lamb and Rice Puppy LID (Limited Ingredient Diets)	Purina One Smartblend Large Breed Puppy Formula

#### Alternative

- Nutro MAX Natural Chicken Meal & Rice Recipe Large Breed Puppy Food
- Nutro Natural Choice Chicken Whole Brown Rice and Oatmeal Large Breed Puppy Food
- Nutro Ultra Dry Puppy Food
- Pedigree Complete Nutrition Puppy Crunchy Bites
- Purina Puppy Chow

## Approved Adult Diets

### Preferred

					
Eukanuba Adult Large Breed (Chicken 1 <sup>st</sup> Ingredient)	Hills Science Diet Adult Large Breed Lamb Meal and Rice	Iams Proactive Health Adult Large Breed	Natural Balance Lamb Meal and Rice Adult LID (Limited Ingredient Diets)	Purina One Smartblend Large Breed Adult Formula	Purina Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice Formula

### Alternative

- Nutro MAX Natural Chicken Meal & Rice Recipe Large Breed Adult Food
- Nutro Ultra Large Breed Adult Dry Dog Food
- Nutro Natural Choice Chicken Whole Brown Rice and Oatmeal Large Breed Young Adult Dog Food
- Pedigree Large Breed Nutrition
- Purina Dog Chow

## For Overweight Dogs

With the approval of the CFR, overweight dogs may be fed one of the following diets:

- Natural Balance Fat Dogs
- Eukanuba Weight Control

In selecting these foods, GDB has attempted to provide raisers with a wide selection based on cost and availability. GDB believes that these foods meet our nutritional expectations. Puppy raisers may find, though, that each food may yield different results in attributes such as amount fed and stool number, firmness, and volume.

If the puppy is not doing well on one of the approved formulas, have your leader speak to your CFR, who can evaluate the puppy's individual needs and make additional suggestions in feeding schedules, home behavior monitoring, feeding amounts, and diets. Whenever a puppy's diet is changed, raisers should gradually transition to the new diet over a period of 5 – 7 days, gradually replacing the previous food with the new one.

Raisers will start feeding 8-week-old pups  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup, three times a day and adjust the amount of food based on the puppy's [BCS](#) following instructions given by their leaders. Because each puppy is different, it may require different feeding amounts than what is listed on the puppy food bag or in this policy. At four months of age the puppy should be weaned off its midday meal and fed twice per day. Continue feeding twice per day until the puppy returns to campus for formal training.

At GDB's determination, variations may occur in the above policy guidelines for a variety of reasons, including:

- The special needs of individual dogs under the supervision of or in consultation with the GDB Veterinary Clinic
- Future research in canine nutrition
- Further knowledge gained by GDB through GDB conducted food trials or other research

## **Water Access Guidelines**

Puppies should have easy access to an unlimited amount of fresh, clean water. Free access to water is preferred, but when this is not practical it is acceptable to offer fresh water frequently throughout the day (minimum of 8 times per day, more frequently in hot temperatures).

It is not appropriate to limit the daily amount of water offered to a puppy unless directed by a veterinarian for a specific purpose (e.g. pre-surgical fasting or treatment of acute vomiting). Water is an essential nutrient for dogs. Limiting the supply of this essential nutrient can cause significant health concerns including life-threatening dehydration. This risk is especially concerning for younger puppies because their kidneys are not fully developed and functional until 4-5 months of age.

Raisers are advised to monitor the drinking and relieving pattern for each puppy. Changes in water consumption or frequency of relieving are sometimes indicative of a medical condition that needs to be addressed. Raisers with concerns about the volume of water the puppy is consuming or concerns about changes in the puppy's drinking or relieving patterns should bring this to the attention of their leader. We ask that leaders alert their CFR if there are any concerns regarding water consumption. CFRs will work with GDB Veterinarians in cases where possible underlying medical concerns are suspected. The amount of water offered to a puppy each day should not be limited unless directed to do so by GDB Veterinarians.