

Feeding Your New Puppy

Your puppy has been fed the highest quality (4-start or above) dog food. Your puppy is eating the food shown in Figure 1. Visit the *Orijen* home page (<https://www.orijenpetfoods.com/en-US/homepage>) for locations in your area. You will receive a sample bag when you pick up your puppy.



Figure 1 Orijen Amazing Grains

For **up-to-date warning on dog food alerts** visit WWW.dogfoodadvisor.com

If you wish to feed your puppy another kind of food, it is important to gradually transition your puppy using following schedule:

Day 1-2	Serve a mixture of 25% new food and 75% old food.
Day 3-4	Serve a mixture of 50% new food and 50% old food.
Day 5-6	Serve a mixture of 75% new food and 25% old food.
Day 7	Serve 100% new food.

Feeding Your Puppy: A First-Year Timeline

- **6–12 weeks:** Growing pups should be fed puppy food, a diet specially formulated to meet the nutritional needs for normal development. Feeding adult food will rob your puppy of important nutrients. Four feedings a day are usually adequate to meet nutritional demands. Small breeds such as yours should be fed unmoistened dry food by 12 or 13 weeks.
- **3–6 months:** Sometime during this period, decrease feedings from four to three a day. Your puppy should be losing her/his potbelly and pudginess by 12 weeks. If she/he is still roly-poly at this age, continue to feed puppy-size portions until body type matures.
- **6–12 months:** Begin feeding twice daily. Spaying or neutering lowers energy requirements slightly; after the procedure, switch from nutrient-rich puppy food to adult maintenance food. Small breeds can make the switch at 7 to 9 months. Err on the side of caution: Better to be on puppy food a little too long than not long enough.
- **After age 1:** Most owners feed adult dogs two half-portions a day.

Best Dog Food for Small Breeds

Your small breed dog might think he is one of the big dogs, but when it comes to dinnertime her/his nutritional needs are unique. She/He needs a diet specially formulated for small dogs to help her/him feel and act her/his best.

Small Dog Nutrition 101

Small dogs are different in many ways from their larger counterparts, beginning with their nutritional needs. Despite their small size, small and Toy breed dogs may actually require more calories per pound than larger dogs. Their higher metabolic rates particularly affect their dietary needs in puppyhood, and there are health concerns as they age that diet can help address.

In general, dogs require a wide range of nutrients, vitamins, and minerals. Dogs, contrary to popular belief, are not strictly carnivores. Domestic dogs rely on grains,

fruits, and vegetables, as well as meat, for a complete and balanced diet. For this reason, many people prefer to feed their dogs commercial foods. Most commercial foods are affordable, convenient, and contain all of the nutrients that dogs need to stay healthy, and since few owners are experts in dog nutrition, feeding a dry or canned commercial diet takes the guesswork out of balancing your dog's nutritional needs.

Certain breeds may have their own nutritional concerns. Talk to your vet about your dog to see if there are any nutritional risks you should be aware of based on breed, age, or existing health problems.

Best Food For Small Breed Puppies

The assumption that small breed dogs are low maintenance and easy to feed due to their small size is dangerous. Small breed puppies, especially Toy breeds, require careful feeding to prevent a condition called hypoglycemia. Hypoglycemia is the scientific word for low blood sugar, and small breed puppies are prone to developing this condition as a result of high metabolic rates and low sugar and body fat reserves. This means they need to be fed a calorie-dense, small breed puppy food anywhere from four-to-six times a day and watched closely for symptoms of hypoglycemia.

Symptoms of hypoglycemia in dogs:

- Weakness
- Lethargy
- Muscle tremors
- Seizures

Most complete and balanced small breed puppy foods contain the appropriate amount of nutrients for small breed dogs. They also have smaller kibbles, which are easier for small breed puppies to chew and are less of a choking hazard. Talk to your vet about the risks of hypoglycemia and what you can do to prevent it in your small breed puppy. If you suspect your puppy has hypoglycemia, call your veterinarian immediately.

Best Dog Food For Small Breed Adults

Finding the best food for small breed adults is tricky. There are a lot of options claiming to offer your dog the best nutritional package in a variety of price ranges. You can narrow your search by asking your veterinarian what brands he or she recommends. Veterinarians have access to the latest research on dog nutrition as well as pet food recalls, which makes them a valuable resource during this decision-making process. Depending on your dog's health, your vet might recommend a specific food or several brands that he or she feels offer the best food for small breeds.

Small breed adult dogs require more calories-per-pound than large dogs, and they also need smaller kibbles, which is why diets especially formulated for small breeds are usually best. However, while small dogs might need more calories per pound than larger dogs, that does not mean that owners should overfeed them. One of the [biggest concerns regarding dog nutrition is obesity](#). Obese dogs are more prone to a variety of health issues, and it is estimated that obesity takes as many as two years off of our dogs' lives.

Diseases associated with obesity in dogs:

- Osteoarthritis
- High blood pressure
- [Type 2 diabetes](#)
- Heart and respiratory disease
- Cancer
- [Kidney disease](#)
- Cranial cruciate ligament injury