Lake Pine Animal Hospital
1200 Old Raleigh Rd, Apex, NC 27502
919-380-1157 · lakepineanimalhospital.com

Puppy Nutrition & Feeding Guide

> **Proper nutrition during the first year of life supports healthy growth, bone development, immune function, and long-term wellness. Feeding the right diet – in the right amount – is one of the most important decisions you will make for your puppy.**

Choosing the Right Diet

Select a high-quality puppy diet labeled for growth or 'growth and reproduction.' Large-breed puppies should be fed a diet specifically formulated for large-breed growth to support proper bone and joint development.

Look for diets that:

- Meet AAFCO standards for growth
- Are produced by reputable manufacturers with veterinary nutrition expertise
- ·Have undergone feeding trials

How Much to Feed

Feeding amounts vary based on age, breed, and activity level. Use the feeding guide on the bag as a starting point, but adjust based on body condition.

- Feed measured meals rather than free feeding (unless directed otherwise)
- Feed 4 times daily if able until they are 3 months old, then
- Most puppies eat 3 meals daily until about 4-6 months of age
- Transition to 2 meals daily as your puppy matures

Monitoring Body Condition

Maintaining a lean body condition is critical. Overfeeding can lead to joint problems, especially in large breeds.

A healthy puppy should:

- Have a visible waist when viewed from above
- Have a slight abdominal tuck when viewed from the side
- Have ribs that are easily felt but not visibly protruding

Managing Accidents

Accidents are part of learning and do not mean your puppy is being stubborn or spiteful.

Do NOT:

- Yell or punish
- Rub their nose in it
- Use the crate as punishment

Instead:

- Clean thoroughly with an enzymatic cleaner
- Increase supervision
- Shorten the time between potty breaks

When to Contact Us

Call us if you notice: frequent accidents despite consistency, straining to urinate, blood in urine, excessive thirst, or sudden regression after progress. Medical causes must always be ruled out if training is not progressing.

Consistency builds habits. If progress stalls or you feel frustrated, Lake Pine Animal Hospital is here to help guide you.