



HOW TO RATE YOUR DOG FOOD

I realize this is lengthy, but if you are anything like me, I have suffered the dilemma of what to feed my dog for over 25 years, the most expensive is not ALWAYS the best. Also, as a canine behaviorist, what a dog eats can affect its behavior, so it's doubly important for me to be knowledgeable in that regard.

How to grade your dog's food: Start with a grade of 100:

- 1) For every listing of "by-product", subtract 10 points.
- 2) For every non-specific animal source ("meat" or "poultry", meat, meal or fat) reference, subtract 10 points.
- 3) If the food contains BHA, BHT, or ethoxyquin, subtract 10 points.
- 4) For every grain "mill run" or non-specific grain source, subtract 5 points.
- 5) If the same grain ingredient is used 2 or more times in the first five ingredients (i.e. "ground brown rice", "brewers rice", "rice flour" are all the same grain), subtract 5 points.
- 6) If the protein sources are not meat meal and there are less than 2 meats in the top 3 ingredients, subtract 3 points.
- 7) If it contains any artificial colorants, subtract 3 points.
- 8) If it contains ground corn or whole grain corn, subtract 3 points.
- 9) If corn is listed in the top 5 ingredients, subtract 2 more points
- 10) If the food contains any animal fat other than fish oil, subtract 2 points.
- 11) If lamb is the only animal protein source (unless your dog is allergic to other protein sources), subtract 2 points.
- 12) If it contains soy or soybeans, subtract 2 points.
- 13) If it contains wheat (unless you know that your dog is not allergic to wheat), subtract 2 points.
- 14) If it contains beef (unless you know that your dog is not allergic to beef), subtract 1 point.
- 15) If it contains salt, subtract 1 point.

Extra Credit:

- 1) If any of the meat sources are organic, add 5 points.
- 2) If the food is endorsed by any major breed group or nutritionist, add 5 points.
- 3) If the food is baked not extruded, add 5 points.
- 4) If the food contains probiotics, add 3 points.
- 5) If the food contains fruit, add 3 points.
- 6) If the food contains vegetables (NOT corn or other grains), add 3 points.
- 7) If the animal sources are hormone-free and antibiotic-free, add 2 points.
- 8) If the food contains barley, add 2 points.
- 9) If the food contains flax seed oil (not just the seeds), add 2 points.
- 10) If the food contains oats or oatmeal, add 1 point.
- 11) If the food contains sunflower oil, add 1 point.
- 12) For every different specific animal protein source add 1 point. (other than the first one; count "chicken" and "chicken meal" as only one protein source, but "chicken" and "turkey" as 2 different sources),
- 13) If it contains glucosamine and chondroitin, add 1 point.
- 14) If the vegetables have been tested for pesticides and are pesticide-free, add 1 point.

Here are some foods that have already been scored.

Dog Food scores:

Name	Score	Grade
Authority Harvest Baked	116	A+
Bil-Jac Select	68	F
Canidae	112	A+
Chicken Soup Senior	115	A+
Diamond Maintenance	64	F
Diamond Lamb Meal & Rice	92	B
Diamond Large Breed 60+ Formula	99	A
Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance Ultra Premium	122	A+
Dick Van Patten's Duck and Potato	106	A+
Foundations	106	A+
Hund-n-Flocken Adult Dog (lamb) by Solid Gold	93	B
Iams Lamb Meal & Rice Formula Premium	73	D
Innova Dog	114	A+
Innova Evo	114	A+
Kirkland Signature Chicken, Rice, and Vegetables	110	A+
Nutrisource Lamb and Rice	87	B
Nutro Natural Choice Large Breed Puppy	87	B
Pet Gold Adult with Lamb & Rice	23	F
ProPlan Natural Turkey & Barley	103	A+
Purina Beneful	17	F
Purina Dog	62	F
Purina Come-n-Get It	16	F
Royal Canin Bulldog	100	A+
Royal Canin Natural Blend Adult	106	A+
Sensible Choice Chicken and Rice	97	A
Science Diet Advanced Protein Senior 7+	63	F
Science Diet for Large Breed Puppies	69	F
Wellness Super5 Mix Chicken	110	A+
Wolfking Adult Dog (bison) by Solid Gold	97	A