

Puppy guide



**Royal Canin scientific research:
innovation in Health Nutrition**


ROYAL CANIN.
KNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT

How to feed your puppy correctly

- **Don't overfeed**
Follow the "Guidelines" recommended on the bag; avoid giving scraps that are unsuitable for the nutritional requirements of a puppy, and sweet foods such as chocolates, which must be forbidden. This will help prevent problems of obesity, which could affect the puppy later in life.
- **Make sure water is always available**
Your puppy must always have access to a bowl of fresh water. Change the water regularly, as puppies tend to play with it.



NUMBER OF MEALS PER DAY

Small-Breed dogs

Up to 4 months:	3 meals per day
From 4 to 10 months:	2 meals per day

Medium-Breed dogs

Up to 6 months:	3 meals per day
From 6 to 12 months:	2 meals per day

Large-Breed dogs

Up to 6 months:	3 meals per day
From 6 to 15/18 months:	2 meals per day

- **Give several small meals**
Up to the age of 6 months, your puppy should be given three meals a day, at scheduled times. Always give the food in the same bowl placed in the same place. This will train your puppy in good eating habits.

- **Respect the puppy-to-adulthood transition**
As your puppy reaches adulthood, his nutritional requirements will change. That's why it is recommended to provide your adult dog with a diet specifically formulated to meet its new nutritional requirements and needs. Also, when changing your dog's diet, make sure to gradually mix the food over a 5-7 day period, increasing daily the amount of the new food added so that 100% of the new food will be provided to the dog by day seven. This will help to avoid any digestive stress.

MAXI: Health nutrition just for large breed dogs

The term "Maxi" or large breed includes dogs weighing 55 to 100 pounds at adulthood. Most of them were originally bred as working dogs, and still today excel as sheep dogs, trackers, emergency rescue dogs, guard dogs or as guide dogs for the blind. They are faithful and affectionate and make ideal pets.

● There are several types of large breed dogs:

- **Scent Hounds**
Bloodhound, Otterhound, Black and Tan Coon Hound, etc.
- **Pointers**
Weimaraner, German Shorthair Pointer, English Pointer, etc.
- **Retrievers**
Golden Retriever, Flat Coat Retriever, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, etc.
- **Coursing Hounds**
Greyhounds, etc.
- **Herding Dogs**
Old English Sheepdog, Bouvier des Flandres, Collie, etc.
- **Working Dogs**
Doberman, Rottweiler, Giant Schnauzer, etc.



Characteristics that make all the difference:

Large breed dogs can withstand tests of endurance such as long walks, working under extreme conditions or keeping guard. But to combat the oxidative stress that these conditions produce, they put heavy demands on their natural defenses. This is one of the special features to be taken into account to ensure they live a long and healthy life.

Understanding the physiological differences between small and large breed dogs.

➤ **Small Digestive Tract**

Small breeds' digestive tracts represent on the average 7% of their total bodyweight, compared to only 3.5% for large breeds. A large breed dog requires a highly digestible diet to compensate for the proportional difference.

➤ **Long Growth Period**

The growth period of a small breed puppy is approximately 8 months long, while the growth period is approximately 15 months for a large breed puppy. The large breed puppy's diet should contain a more moderate energy level to help maintain the puppy in optimal body condition.

➤ **Fast Growth Rate**

Small breed puppies multiply their birth weight by approximately 20 times during their first year of life. This ratio can be as great as 70-90 times for large breeds.

➤ **Shorter Life Expectancy**

The larger and heavier the dog, the earlier the aging process will start. Life expectancy for large breeds is two-thirds that of small breeds. Therefore, it is best to begin addressing the nutritional considerations of aging early in the large breed dog's life to help promote optimal health and longevity.



➤ **Sensitive Joints**

A food rich in the antioxidant vitamins E and C, plus natural sources of Glucosamine and Chondroitin, can help protect the joints. The large dogs' body weight combined with an active temperament puts their joints under stress day after day.

➤ **Digestive Sensitivity**

Because of their reduced digestive capacity, large dogs are very sensitive to their food. Heavy meals and indigestible food can lead to diarrhea, abdominal distension (bloat) and other digestive disorders.