

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", "brewer's 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. 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. 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 (other than the first one; count "chicken" and "chicken meal" as only one protein source, but "chicken" and "" as 2 different sources), add 1 point
- 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

94-100+ = A	86-93 = B	78-85 = C	70-77 = D	<70 = F

Dog Food scores:

Alpo Prime Cuts / Score 81 C Artemis Large/Medium Breed Puppy / Score 114 A+ Authority Harvest Baked / Score 116 A+ Authority Harvest Baked Less Active / Score 93 B Beowulf Back to Basics / Score 101 A+ Bil-Jac Select / Score 68 F Blackwood 3000 Lamb and Rice / Score 83 C Blue Buffalo Chicken and Rice / Score 106 A+ Burns Chicken and Brown Rice / Score 107 A+ Canidae / Score 112 A+ Chicken Soup Senior / Score 115 A+ Diamond Maintenance / Score 64 F Diamond Lamb Meal & Rice / Score 92 B Diamond Large Breed 60+ Formula / Score 99 A Diamond Performance / Score 85 C Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance Ultra Premium / Score 122 A+ Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance Venison and Brown Rice / Score 106 A+ Dick Van Patten's Duck and Potato / Score 106 A+ EaglePack Holistic / Score 102 A+ Eukanuba Adult / Score 81 C Eukanuba Puppy / Score 79 C Flint River Senior / Score 101 A+ Foundations / Score 106 A+ Hund-n-Flocken Adult Dog (lamb) by Solid Gold / Score 93 B lams Lamb Meal & Rice Formula Premium / Score 73 D Innova Dog / Score 114 A+ Innova Evo / Score 114 A+ Innova Large Breed Puppy / Score 122 A+ Kirkland Signature Chicken, Rice, and Vegetables / Score 110 A+ Member's Mark Chicken and Rice / Score 84 C Merrick Wilderness Blend / Score 127 A+ Nature's Recipe / Score 100 A Nature's Recipe Healthy Skin Venison and Rice / Score 116 A+ Nature's Variety Raw Instinct / Score 122 A+ Nutra Nuggets Super Premium Lamb Meal and Rice / Score 81 C Nutrience Junior Medium Breed Puppy / Score 101 A+ Nutrisource Lamb and Rice / Score 87 B Nutro Max Adult / Score 93 B Nutro Natural Choice Lamb and Rice / Score 98 A Nutro Natural Choice Large Breed Puppy / Score 87 B Nutro Natural Choice Puppy Wheat Free / Score 86 B Nutro Natural Choice Senior / Score 95 A Nutro Ultra Adult / Score 104 A+ Pet Gold Adult with Lamb & Rice / Score 23 F Premium Edge Chicken, Rice and Vegetables Adult Dry / Score 109 A+ Pro Nature Puppy / Score 80 C Pro Plan Sensitive Stomach / Score 94 A Purina Beneful / Score 17 F Purina Dog / Score 62 F Purina Come-n-Get It / Score 16 F Purina One Large Breed Puppy / Score 62 F

Royal Canin Boxer / Score 103 A+ Royal Canin Bulldog / Score 100 A+ Royal Canin Natural Blend Adult / Score 106 A+ Science Diet Advanced Protein Senior 7+ / Score 63 F Science Diet for Large Breed Puppies / Score 69 F Sensible Choice Chicken and Rice / Score 97 A Solid Gold / Score 99 A Summit / Score 99 A Timberwolf Organics Wild & Natural Dry / Score 120 A+ Wellness Super5 Mix Chicken / Score 110 A+ Wolfking Adult Dog (bison) by Solid Gold / Score 97 A