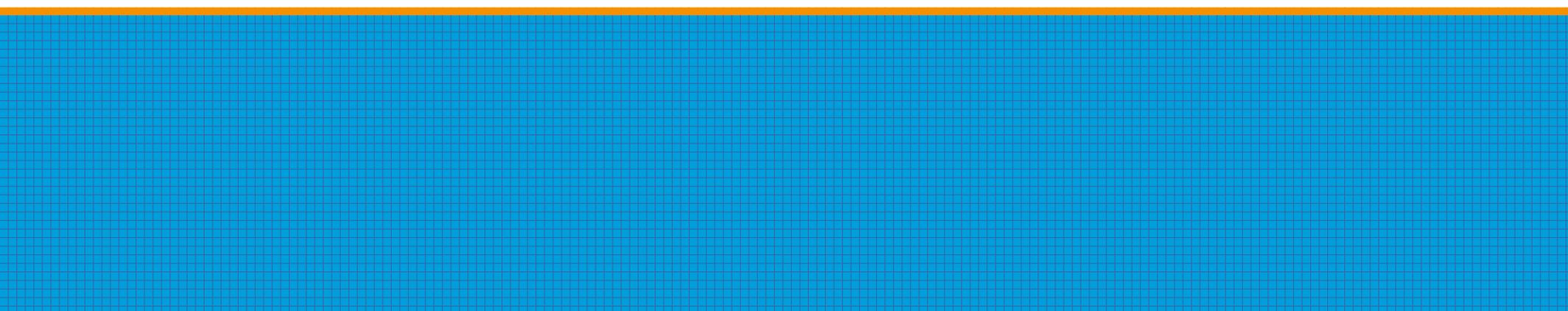


What is the best food for my dog?



Most commonly asked questions

- Canned or dry?
- Which brand?
- Is home cooked okay?
- What about freeze dried?
- What about frozen?
- What about raw?



The short answer: The best food is one that is balanced and fits the unique needs of your dog.



How do we know if a food is balanced?

- Commercial Foods

- AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials)
- WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association)



- Home Cooked Foods

- Veterinary Nutritionist
- www.balanceit.com



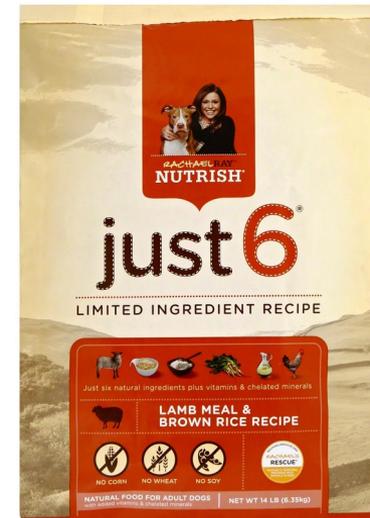
I don't have time to cook.

- Then I recommend sticking with a commercial diet.
- But...approach with caution and educated eyes.



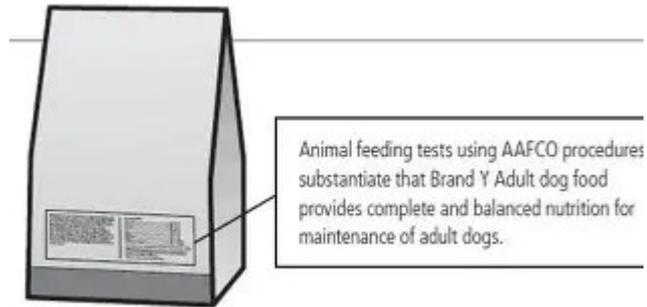
The pet food industry is deceptive.

- There are only 3 things that must remain truthful on pet food bags. All will be written in small type somewhere on the bag/can/pouch.
 - The AAFCO statement
 - The ingredient list
 - The guaranteed analysis



How do I pick a quality commercial food?

- Start by looking for this statement on the product.
 - Meets AAFCO standards for...
- The rest of the statement should fit your pets life stage
 - ...growth
 - ...adult
 - ...senior
 - ...pregnant and nursing



Avoid foods that say for all life stages.

I want to feed wholesome ingredients

- Check the ingredients list, do not trust what is on the front of the bag.
- The propaganda on the front of the bag can be exposed by the ingredients list.
 - Example 1: Chicken is our first ingredient
 - Ingredients are listed by pre-cooked weight
 - Ingredients can be divided into subcategories
 - Rice flour, rice meal, rice



I want to feed wholesome ingredients

- Example 2: Contains Blueberries
 - Ingredients are listed by weight
 - Blueberries are often listed below Salt



Read ingredients closely

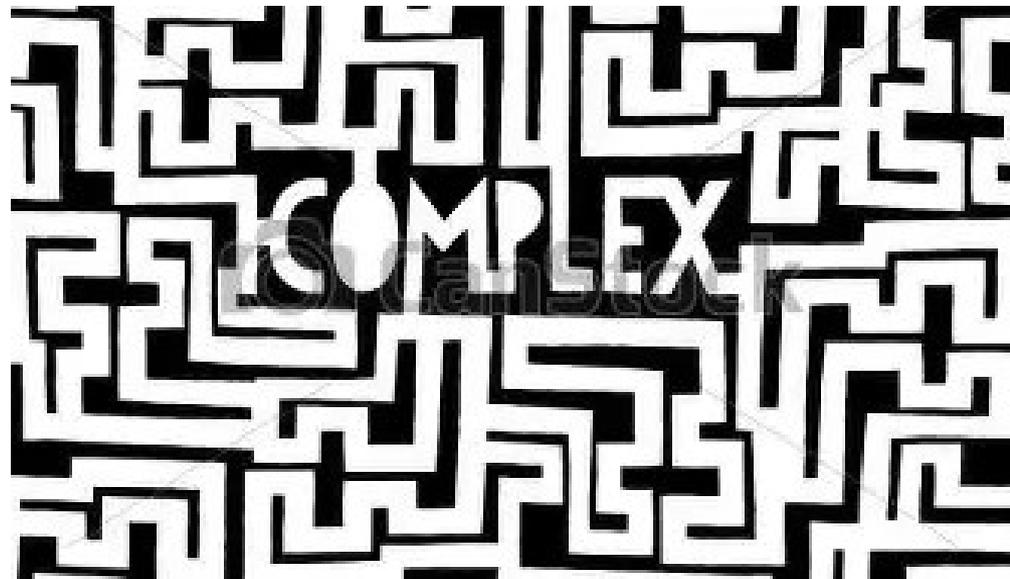
How do I know I'm feeding the right amount of protein?

- Look at the guaranteed analysis
 - Must report the following
 - Crude Protein
 - Crude Fat
 - Crude Fiber
 - Moisture
 - Will give a percentage of the weight of the food for each category but doesn't tell you quality.

**The guaranteed analysis is nearly
useless.**

How do I pick a food that is best for my unique dog's needs?

- This is a complex question that will be discussed next time.



Thank you

