

How to grade your dog's food

by www.oes.org

Here is a great way for you to grade your own dog food. Remember, this is a guideline to help you to choose the healthiest food that you can afford for your dog. Start with a grade of 100:

Subtract Points	100 points
1) For every listing of "by-product"	- 10 _____
2) For every non-specific animal source ("meat" or "poultry", meat, meal or fat) reference	- 10 _____
3) If the food contains BHA, BHT, or ethoxyquin	- 10 _____
4) For every grain "mill run" or non-specific grain source	- 5 _____
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)	- 5 _____
6) If the protein sources are not meat meal and there are less than 2 meats in the top 3 ingredients	- 3 _____
7) If it contains any artificial colorants	- 3 _____
8) If it contains ground corn or whole grain corn	- 3 _____
9) If corn is listed in the top 5 ingredients	- 2 _____
10) If the food contains any animal fat other than fish oil	- 2 _____
11) If lamb is the only animal protein source (unless your dog is allergic to other protein sources)	- 2 _____
12) If it contains soy or soybeans	- 2 _____
13) If it contains wheat (unless you know that your dog isn't allergic to wheat)	- 2 _____
14) If it contains beef (unless you know that your dog isn't allergic to beef)	- 1 _____
15) If it contains salt	- 1 _____

Extra Credit:

Add Points	
1) If any of the meat sources are organic	+ 5 _____
2) If the food is endorsed by any major breed group or nutritionist	+ 5 _____
3) If the food is baked not extruded	+ 5 _____
4) If the food contains probiotics	+ 3 _____
5) If the food contains fruit	+ 3 _____
6) If the food contains vegetables (NOT corn or other grains)	+ 3 _____
7) If the animal sources are hormone-free and antibiotic-free	+ 2 _____
8) If the food contains barley	+ 2 _____
9) If the food contains flax seed oil (not just the seeds)	+ 2 _____
10) If the food contains oats or oatmeal	+ 1 _____
11) If the food contains sunflower oil	+ 1 _____
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)	+ 1 _____
13) If it contains glucosamine and chondroitin	+ 1 _____
14) If the vegetables have been tested for pesticides and are pesticide-free	+ 1 _____

Total

Scores:

94 - 100+	A
86 - 93	B
78 - 85	C
70 - 77	D
0 - 69	F

Here are some foods that have already been scored:

Timberwolf Organics Lamb and Venison	136	A+
Solid Gold Bison	123	A+
Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance Ultra Premium	122	A+
Eagle Pack Holistic	119	A+
Authority Harvest Baked	116	A+
Chicken Soup Senior	115	A+
Eagle Pack Holistic Chicken	114	A+
Innova Dog	114	A+
Innova Evo	114	A+
Natural Balance Duck and Potato	114	A+
Canidae	112	A+
Kirkland Signature Chicken, Rice, and Vegetables	110	A+
Wellness Super5 Mix Chicken	110	A+
Dick Van Patten's Duck and Potato	106	A+
Foundations	106	A+
Royal Canin Natural Blend Adult	106	A+
ProPlan Natural Turkey & Barley	103	A+
Royal Canin Bulldog	100	A+
Diamond Large Breed 60+ Formula	99	A
Sensible Choice Chicken and Rice	97	A
Wolfking Adult Dog (bison) by Solid Gold	97	A
Eagle Pack Large and Giant Breed Puppy	94	A
Eagle Pack Natural	94	A
Hund-n-Flocken Adult Dog (lamb) by Solid Gold	93	A
Diamond Lamb Meal & Rice	92	B
Flint River Ranch (non-specific fat source)	92	B
Eukanuba Natural Lamb and Rice	87	B
Nutrisource Lamb and Rice	87	B
Nutro Natural Choice Large Breed Puppy	87	B
Nutro Chicken, Rice, & Oatmeal (non-specific fat source)	85	C
Nutro Natural Choice Lamb and Rice	85	B
Eukanuba Large Breed Adult	83	C
Iams Large Breed	83	C
Iams Lamb Meal & Rice Formula Premium	73	D
Science Diet for Large Breed Puppies	69	F
Bil-Jac Select	68	F
ProPlan All Breed	68	F
Diamond Maintenance	64	F
Science Diet Advanced Protein Senior 7+	63	F
Purina Dog	62	F
Science Diet Chicken Adult Maintenance	45	F
Pedigree Complete Nutrition	42	F
Pet Gold Adult with Lamb & Rice	23	F
Purina Beneful	17	F
Purina Come-n-Get It	16	F
Pedigree Adult Complete	14	F
Ol Roy	9	F