

Hello All,

Best food for MOST dogs (95%) - something close to a natural diet = a balanced diet consisting mostly of raw meat. That is what I feed. There is argument on which raw diet is best. It needs to be balanced. That is what is critical. Personally I feed raw: homemade, Nature's Variety or Bravo. See Akron Beacon Journal article attached on how I came to feed raw. It was not some tree hugger choice :). However, the majority of my customers feed kibble, so I am well versed.

I worked as a PetSmart Area Trainer for over 3 years, working with over 500 dogs/year, who when changed from a corn base to a rice or oatmeal based food had significant behavioral improvements. Using a carb as a source of fat does not make sense to me. Even if the Omega 3 is there, it is the correct balance of Omega 3 and 6 that dogs need. Think of oatmeal as alternate carb: sticks with you bones. Smoother (less peaks and valleys) in energy curve. Lastly, I certainly don't agree ANY carb should outweigh the protein in any dog (or cat) food. Simply not natural. I do agree that Chicken, listed as such, can be up to 70% water and can be deceptive when listed first in ingredient list. But I would look for a meat meal (not by-product meal) in addition or instead of just meat higher than the a carb in a ingredient list of kibble food.

I think you can get a much better bang for your buck than Eukanaba Naturally Wild. Look at ingredients: protein that is only meat = 70% water (not meat meal, 11 times higher in protein than meat) precedes carb. Then ground (whole is better in anything) Sorghum (not a good carb), a list of other other carbs (brewers rice has close to no nutritional value), before you get to a meat meal. It's Procter and Gambles' Eukanaba attempt to keep customers away from good dog foods, in my opinion. A hair better than their other foods, touted as great. Really, poor in comparison to others available as same price or lower.

There is not one good kibble. Every dog has different needs. Along with experience, I use energy testing to help nail down the food that is right for each dog I help nutritionally. It's called Kinesiology (which is a form of bio-feedback) for individual evaluation of the best food each dog I work with.

The kibble foods I often recommend are:

California Natural  
Orijen  
Dog Lovers Gold  
Natures Variety  
Go Natural  
Solid Gold  
Innova

For lots of reasons we can discuss, I also suggest supplementation when feeding kibble, typically something from Nature's Farmacy. Digestive Enhancer (\$20); Ultimate Vitamin Powder (\$12); or Phytoflex (joint, bone, soft tissues support, Glucosamine, Chondroitin, plus more) \$20.

By the way, now and again I do nutritional consults as a service I offer. Mostly I have to integrate it into in-home training. Here in Ohio, the world is not right ready for a canine nutritionist, yet.

.....  
[Patty Vesalo](#)  
[CleverPup101](#)  
[Family Dog Training](#)  
[NE Ohio, USA](#)  
[330-620-6180](tel:330-620-6180)