



Feeding Instructions

Food & Feeding Schedule

Your Acadia Goldendoodle puppy is eating [PawTree Chicken and Oatmeal](#) food. The amount is currently 3/4 cup (6 oz.) fed three (3) times a day. Meals are between 7:00 and 9:00 am, 12:00 and 1:00 pm, and 5:00 and 6:00 pm.

Supplements

[Gastro Pro Plus](#) - Probiotic

- Once or twice daily
- Sprinkle over food

[NuVet Plus](#) - Immune Builder

- One tablet daily
- Break into 3-4 pieces, feed as treats

[Wild Alaskan Salmon and Pollock Oil](#) - Essential Fatty Acids (Omegas)

- ½ to 1 teaspoon with meals
- Start when puppy is 16 weeks or older

Increasing Food Amount (gradually)

We recommend using the Body Condition Score chart below, rather than your puppy's appetite, to determine when it's time to increase the amount of food. Puppies can have voracious appetites and will often act like they are starving, even when they are getting plenty of food. This has helped ensure their survival by giving them a strong drive to seek out food as they develop. However, in the modern world we have very nutritious food with dense calories, and they don't have to hunt or fight anyone for it.

When your puppy starts to feel thinner - like body condition score is going down (see chart below), it's time to **gradually** increase food. Food increase can cause digestive upset, including gas or loose stool. So increase slowly, over 4-5 days, and if there is any tummy upset, back off a little.

Changing the Frequency of Meals

Our puppies go home eating three times a day. Many will naturally start to “back off” or not finish one of those meals at about 3-6 months of age. This is fine, and this is a good time to go down to 2 meals a day, just distribute the same amount you fed as 3 meals into 2 meals.

How to Serve the Food

It used to be thought that elevating a dog's bowl would prevent bloat, but recent research has shown it can cause bloat. Regardless of size, **always feed your dog from a bowl on the floor, never from a raised bowl.**

Please call us if you have food/feeding questions!

Eating Less or Skipping Meals

As puppies grow into dogs, they start to self-regulate their intake. They will eat more or less depending on how much their body needs at that time. Older puppies and grown dogs typically require fewer meals than adults, so if your puppy starts skipping meals, it is probably time to eliminate one of their meals.

Eating less or skipping meals is NOT a problem UNLESS your dog is too thin according to the body condition chart. If your dog doesn't eat a lot but maintains a healthy weight, **do NOT change food!** Changing brands often causes more problems than it fixes. Many brands end up causing gas, loose stool, and other problems because their ingredients and manufacturing standards aren't where we like them to be. These things are not listed on the label. We have done a lot of work finding excellent food for our dogs and puppies.

Picky Eaters

Picky eaters are often fed too frequently. Some dogs need time between meals to get hungry and build an appetite. Call us if you have a picky eater and we can help determine if reduced amounts and fewer meals will work for your puppy or if you need to take action. If you have a **genuinely picky eater**, there are things you can do to help encourage eating healthy food:

- Add a little warm water to the food.
- Rotate flavors of PawTree food (once puppy is 16-20 weeks old)
- Try the PawPairings toppers. Some dogs like the toppers sprinkled dry, others with a little warm water to make a “broth.”
- Reduce the number of meals you feed to allow your puppy/dog to get hungry between meals.
- Add a little low-sodium chicken or beef broth to the kibble
- Add a bit of cooked meat or hard-boiled egg to the kibble
- Mix some Salmon & Pollock Oil on top of the kibble
- Call us if you need more ideas!

Using the Body Condition Score Chart

Too much food isn't good for a dog, and puppies are very active and it can be hard to keep weight on sometimes. Please call us if you need help maintaining a healthy weight for your dog.










The Body Condition Score chart was developed to give us a system of determining ideal body condition for a dog. Because Goldendoodles have a thick coat, the visual evaluation isn't useful to us—even a skinny Goldendoodle can look plump because of their coat.

To find your puppy's body condition score, you'll want to run your hands down her ribs. You want to feel the puppy's ribs with a thin layer of fat over them. Any more than a thin layer and your dog is starting to get too fat. If you can't feel your dog's ribs, then your dog is **obese**.

There are a few ways to describe how the ribs should feel. Here is the body condition system chart, and a list of descriptors:

Nestlé PURINA

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| TOO THIN | 1 | Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass. |  |
| | 2 | Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass. |  |
| | 3 | Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck. |  |
| IDEAL | 4 | Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident. |  |
| | 5 | Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side. |  |
| | 6 | Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent. |  |
| TOO HEAVY | 7 | Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present. |  |
| | 8 | Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present. |  |
| | 9 | Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention. |  |


The **BODY CONDITION SYSTEM** was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications:

Mawby D, Bartges JW, Moyers T, et. al. *Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client owned dogs.* *Compendium* 2001; 23 (9A): 70

Lallamanna DP. *Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs.* *Canine Practice* July/August 1997; 22:10-15

Kealy, et. al. *Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs.* *JAVMA* 2002; 220:1315-1320

Call 1-800-222-VETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT



| | Score (1-10 scale) | Description | Clothing analogy | Back of hand analogy | What to do |
|-------------------|--------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Thin | 3 or less | You feel ribs with no covering | Feels like she's not "wearing" anything over her ribs | Feels like you are running your fingers over the knuckles of your other hand | Increase food, reduce activity temporarily if needed |
| Ideal | 4-5 | Ribs easy to feel with minimal covering | Feels like she is "wearing" a t-shirt or very thin fleece shirt over her ribs | Feels like running your fingers over the bones on the top of your hand | Keep doing what you are doing! |
| Overweight | 6-7 | Excess fat over ribs | Feels like she is "wearing" a sweater or fleece sweatshirt over her ribs | | Reduce food, increase activity, contact us if you need help* |
| Obese | 8-9 | Can't feel ribs under the fat layer | | | Reduce food, contact us or your vet, this can lead to serious conditions* |

* Overfeeding can cause loose stool and obesity-related illnesses, including hip dysplasia.

Food Rotation

We cycle the food of our dogs and recommend that most families do the same for puppies after they reach 16 - 20 weeks of age, providing there's no veterinary reason not to. Food rotation provides dogs with variety, which is important not just for appetite, but for health. Just like with humans, a varied diet is healthy for dogs. It keeps them interested in their food. It enhances the diversity of their microbiome. It can also reduce the risk of allergies and food intolerances.

Adding Fresh Food

Fresh food is good for everyone including your dog! You can feed a little every day or have a special fresh meal one day over the weekend.

We do not recommend feeding more than 10% of your dog's weekly ration as fresh food. While fresh foods are incredibly healthy for your dog, an all-fresh diet takes care and expertise to construct and maintain. We wouldn't want you to risk causing a nutritional deficiency in your puppy.

Meat

We suggest that at least once a week you give your dog an egg or meat.

- Eggs. Whole eggs can be fed cooked any way, such as scrambled or microwaved. Your dog can be fed raw egg yolks but NOT raw egg whites. Egg whites should be cooked. Egg whites contain a protein called avidin, which can bind to biotin and over time cause a nutritional deficiency.
- Chicken. Chicken can be fed raw or cooked. Safe handling and good quality meat is always recommended. Consult your vet before feeding raw meat.
- Beef and pork are also good meats. However, avoid sausages.
- Organ meat is healthy in small quantities, never more than 10% of your dog's caloric intake.

Veggies

We also suggest that you share some fresh fruits and vegetables with your dog. Dogs love fruits and veggies that are frozen, frozen carrots in particular are a favorite of puppies that are teething. Some foods are toxic to dogs, so when in doubt, don't give it to them or call your vet for advice. Berries in particular are healthy for your dog. Five or 6 berries a day are a great addition. The chart below gives some guidance on which fruits and veggies are good for dogs.

Start slowly because some of these can cause gas or loose stool! When in doubt, check it out* or just don't feed it. **Avoid pits, seeds, and rinds.**

| Yes | | | Moderate amounts ok | No* | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Bananas | Cranberries | Peas | Avocado | Asparagus | Salty foods |
| Blueberries | Cucumbers | Pineapple | Mushrooms | Cherries | Bacon |
| Broccoli | Green beans | Raspberries | Tomatoes | Grapes | Candy |
| Brussels sprouts | Mango | Strawberries | Dairy | Onions | |
| Cantaloupe | Oranges | Spinach | | Chocolate | |
| Carrots | Peaches (NO pits) | | | Coffee | |
| Celery | Pears | | | Alcohol | |

*for a complete list of what not to feed a dog, please consult your vet or animal poison control (888) 426-4435, <https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>