

# FEEDING YOUR CARDIGAN PUPPY

Coedwig strongly believes in feeding Cardigans a diet rich in animal proteins. This concept is more widely accepted than a few years ago when many dog food companies taught that too much protein was a bad thing. These companies sponsored “canine nutrition” courses for many veterinarians. The general implications were that feeding a diet rich in animal protein was bad, i.e. too expensive and harder to make a profit.

Coedwig Cardigans have been fed a rich and nutritious diet and have enjoyed superior health and long lives. This outline is meant only to be a guide. Each owner can modify this basic concept to fit his or her lifestyle.

***Your puppy has been eating the following mixture of dry kibble:***

Nature’s Domain (Costco – grain free)

Blue Wilderness (PetSmart)

***Other good kibbles we like:***

Natural Balance

Taste of the Wild

Soak about a ½ - 1 cup or so of kibble in warm water to soften, and then add an equal amount of boiled ground meat – chicken, beef, turkey (not pork as dogs often do not like pork).

To this meat/kibble mixture, we add (per puppy): a tablespoon or two of live culture yogurt or cottage cheese, a teaspoon of Flax oil or cod liver oil, and a teaspoon of Missing Link (multi-vitamin). You can use ground turkey, chicken, hamburger, or whatever you have. We often grind our own meats. Leo is a hunter... so, your puppy has had all of the above, plus venison, duck and goose.

As far as amount goes, the general rule of thumb is that Cardi puppies will NOT overeat. Do NOT restrict their access to food or amounts if they appear hungry. Give them 20 minutes to finish what they want and then pick up the left overs and put it in the fridge for the next meal. If your puppy finishes fast and is looking for more, give him/her more. We generally recommend giving your puppy access to 3 meals per day. If you will be gone for any length of time, a bowl of dry food or chicken jerky will help tied them over. You will get a feel for your puppy in a few weeks, and of course he/she is growing! Cooked eggs are also good, but not all dogs are crazy about eggs.

Once your dog has reached adult size, then you may need to limit their food depending on their weight and eating habits (some dogs never get fat, some do :-). If you limit their food before they finish growing, they may never reach their full potential. This goes against some of the traditional “teachings” although it may be true of food hogs like labs!

Feel free to ask us questions about diet at any time!