

Choosing Coonhound Cuisine

How to feed your hungry hound for a long and healthy life.

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Ever wonder if your coonhound needs a different feeding plan than other breeds, like, Toy Poodles or Border Collies? Coonhounds share a special genetic background, a robust physical design and laid-back temperament. Such big dogs with heavy bone, plenty of muscle and the ability to hunt for long hours certainly need more dietary protein and fat than a Toy breed. But a coonhound at home only dreaming of raccoons burns fewer calories, and can put weight on more easily than a busy hunting hound.

Several long-time coonhound breeders share insights gleaned over years of feeding their dogs, including which ingredients to look for, those to avoid and the range of protein and fat levels needed to fuel the coonhound engine. We'll also help you decipher dog-food labels, summarize the pros and cons of dry versus canned formulas and commercial versus homemade diets. What about the new raw and frozen diets for dogs? We've got that covered, too!

Why the Fuss Over Food? The more we learn about keeping dogs healthy and living longer, the more nutrition moves to the forefront. A healthy immune system—the very thing that helps a dog fight infections, aging and cancer starts before birth and depends on proper nutrition of the mother. (Another good reason to buy a puppy from a reputable breeder who feeds their breeding stock well.)

From weaning to 1 or 2 years of age, proper nutrition nourishes growth of vital organs, bones, muscle and the brain. In an adult dog, a proper diet fuels energy for work and play, healthy skin and a glossy coat, and continually supports the immune system. Along with regular exercise, providing an excellent diet represents one area in which you can actively contribute to your dog's well-being, every day. Give what you feed your coonhound a closer look!