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## ***Feeding Guidelines & Recommendations for Monitoring Growth Rates in Puppies***

1. Do ***not*** feed free choice.
2. Feed controlled portions 3-4 times per day until the puppy is at least 6 months of age. Thereafter, 2-3 meals a day are acceptable. Remove any uneaten food after 20-30 minutes. Ideally, keep a log of daily food intake.
3. Weigh and monitor body condition every 1-2 weeks. Use a ‘walk on’ scale for bigger puppies. Rapidly growing large and giant breed puppies have a very steep growth curve; food requirements can change quickly in a short time.
4. Monitor body condition score (BCS). It is easiest if you can stand over the puppy and look for an obvious waistline behind the rib cage. With an ideal BCS, you should be able to feel the ribs but not see them and the waistline should be obvious. If too thin, the ribs and pelvic bones are seen and felt. If the puppy is beginning to put on too much weight or is growing too quickly, the daily amount of food will need to be reduced.
5. Feed in a quiet place. In the presence of other pets or people, some dogs eat too much or too quickly.
6. Avoid feeding just prior to or just after exercise. Record the amount of exercise the dog receives every day.
7. Feed healthy treats. Many treats on the market are very high in calories (and in salt). Treats have to be taken into account when calculating how many calories the puppy needs daily, particularly for those pups that may be receiving lots of “rewards” at obedience class. We have low calorie rewards available here.
8. Avoid supplements of any kind. There are currently more health problems encountered by “overdoing” nutrition than by under nutrition.
9. Do ***not*** feed raw meat.
10. Do ***not*** feed bones.