

# Feeding your Korthals Griffon

## *A guide to choosing and feeding dog foods.*

Personal advice, based on my experience of keeping dogs for many years and the Korthals Griffon for over ten years: Firstly, organise a regime/sequence of everything in your dogs life once (s)he's settled into their new home, keep the off lead exercise more controlled (not too much when young - and the more exercise, the more poo); play time, cuddle time, training time and sleep time - stick it on the refrigerator and 'stick' to it. Depending on you and your dogs' lifestyle and if the dog will be (is) working for or with you in the field, food and feeding requirements will differ considerably.

Dog food manufacture is "big business" so beware. Remember that good dog food 'does NOT' contain the following:

- Meat and animal derivatives
- The term "cereal"
- Artificial colourings
- Artificial flavourings
- Artificial Preservatives
- EC Permitted additives
- Unspecified fat source
- Containing wheat or sorghum

As they say 'Always read the label'!

It is evident that 'dried' dog food or 'kibble' is the type most preferred by dog owners and breeders, at least in Europe and Canada/USA and is the focus of this article. Please, "always keep/replenish a clean fresh water supply" for your dog(s) at all times with this food type.

I've always gone for high quality, minimum ingredients dog food from day one (From puppy to adult; I've found it saves on vet's fees down the road). Keeping everything as 'natural' as possible and I used foods with no dairy or wheat in the ingredients. For your new puppy, your breeder would have supplied you with a feeding and well-being document together with some food and advice. Typically, a puppy will be fed frequently with high protein 'puppy' food of around 25 to 30% protein. For a young dog I'd look at 23 to 25% protein and good named animal fat content for a Korthals Griffon of six months up to 9 or 12 months; to-high a protein number is like someone whose had too many espresso's! Older adult dogs would be fed 18 to 23% protein based foods. As you dog(s) age their food requirements, like work or exercise, change. So you must adapt.

The most expensive, most organic, big named or most recommended dog food may not be the best for your dog and its lifestyle - so use your judgement; you know your dog(s) best. Look at your dog ... its eyes, nose, coat and stools. Does it itch or scratch, does it smell bad, is it always pooping, loose stools? Over active or lethargic?

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I have tried various types & brands of dried foods (of the same protein/fat compliment) with my dogs to see what was the best 'fit' at the time.

When puppy/young I fed them three times a day up until 9 month/12 months with the whole amount of food for the day, being that required for their size and age - as the instructions from the manufacturer. Currently I feed them twice a day ... and they are over ten years old; this reduces bloat and aids their digestion.

I have used Eukanuba, Royal Canin, Purina Beta (gold in France), Whites, Autakry, Skinners field & Trial, Burns and Arden Grange most recently. I say recently because as your dog ages and/or lifestyles change; its advisable to revisit the type of dog food used and as I say above, "you must adapt".

For the last four years the best 'fit' for my dogs has been "Arden Grange" (Your dog(s) maybe different and this is not a brand recommendation). I supplement (add in and reduce the dried mix) with 'real cooked meat, fish and vegetables at reasonably frequent intervals for variety. Supermarkets sell 'Everyday or Basics' branded chicken parts for a few £ pounds that is ideal cooked for dog food, Fishmongers & supermarkets will also offer sprats (a small oily fish) at £1.00 per kilo or so. Tripe is also available from good butchers as is beef marrow, Ideal to portion, freeze and cook a handful occasionally for the dogs. I never feed my dogs "Game" for obvious reasons!

Whatever you try, move the dog(s) across over 5 to 7 days to prevent the 'chocolate yogurt' effect inside your home ... It never comes out of carpet or between the gaps in floor boards!! Continue the food brand for at least 30 days and monitor your dog(s).

Here's some hyperlinks (with my personal comments from using the product):

<http://www.eukanuba.co.uk/index> <-- Not a favourite of my dogs.

[http://www.euksport.com/sportingDog/en\\_US/jsp/home/SD\\_HP.jsp](http://www.euksport.com/sportingDog/en_US/jsp/home/SD_HP.jsp) <-- Not sold in the UK, but interesting.

<http://www.purina-beta.co.uk/dog/Pages/default.aspx> <-- My dogs loved it, but it did not love them back - maybe the ingredients? Very popular in France and UK.

<http://www.whitespremiumsouthern.co.uk/> <-- Good dog food.

<http://www.autarkyfoods.com/> <-- Another good dog food.

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<http://www.skinnerpetfoods.co.uk/> <-- Well respected and my dogs liked the 'field & trial' turkey and rice.

<http://www.wellbeloved.com/products/dog-food/large-breed-adult-junior> <-- Good dog food.

<http://burnspet.co.uk/> <-- Good dog food but never suited my dogs?

[Medium Adult - Royal Canin](#) <-- My dogs loved Royal Canin, but it did not love them back - maybe the ingredients or formula?

<http://www.symplypetfoods.co.uk> <-- Good dog food again.

<http://www.ardengrange.com/pet-food/premium-dry-dog-foods.asp> <-- Best fit for my dogs (lamb) at the moment; they also liked the fish but not so much the chicken?

<http://www.naturaldogfoodcompany.com> <-- Another good dog food.

As always ... There are other manufacturers.

It seems to me that the Natural, Holistic dog foods with true ingredients turned out to be the 'best' fit for feeding all the dogs I have owned/looked after, rewarding them with good health and vitality throughout their lives.

I obtain between two and four 12 to 15kg bags delivered to my home via an online supplier when needed and have done for all pet foods for many years - good prices and great service, also saves me carrying heavy bags & fuel costs too. Look online for suppliers as prices vary, ask around or contact your breed club for helpful advice.

Email/telephone the food makers (listed above or those of your choice) and ask for a few samples or small bags to try/ buy their 'taster packs' - food for a few days or so and offer this to your dog before you commit to at least a months supply to try out. While dogs will eat or try to eat most things; just like humans who hate to eat cabbage, mushrooms or swede (rutabaga) ... Dogs have similar traits. Remember to always monitor your dogs condition, that you should consult a professional veterinarian for help and advice if needed and in particular if odd symptoms or issues of health or well-being occur or persist.

Best wishes,

Colin Perry