

COMMERCIAL DIET ALTERNATIVES

Although food allergy is ideally diagnosed by feeding a home-cooked diet, this is often impractical. Alternatively, you may choose one of the commercial hypoallergenic diets listed below. Choose only one of these diets and make sure it does not contain anything on the ingredient list of the old food! Commercial hypoallergenic diets work for 80% of food allergic dogs, but some dogs will only get better on home-cooked diets.

DRY

Hill's Canine D/D 1-800-548-8387	Egg/Rice Duck/Rice Salmon/Rice	egg, rice, vegetable oil, animal fat, etc. duck, rice, vegetable oil, animal fat, etc. salmon, rice, vegetable oil, animal fat, etc.
Natural Life Lamb/Rice 1-800-367-2391		lamb meal, rice, oatmeal, sorghum, flax, beet pulp, poultry fat, etc.
Nature's Recipe Lamb/Rice/Barley 1-800-843-4008		lamb, rice, barley
Sensible Choice 1-800-592-6687	Lamb/Rice Chicken/Rice	lamb, rice, poultry fat chicken, rice
Limited Diets 1-800-359-4483	Lamb/Potato Venison/Potato Duck/Potato Rabbit/Potato Whitefish/Potato	lamb, potato, canola oil, etc. venison, potato, canola oil, etc. duck, potato, canola oil, etc. rabbit, potato, canola oil, etc. whitefish, potato, canola oil, salmon oil, etc
Eukanuba 1-800-535-8387	Fish/Potato Kangaroo/Oatmeal	herring meal, catfish, potato, animal fat, beet pulp, etc. kangaroo, oat flour, canola meal, animal fat, beet pulp, fish oil
Purina 1-800-222-8387	HA Formula LA Formula	corn starch, modified soy protein, canola oil, coconut oil, etc. salmon meal, rice, trout, canola meal, tallow, canola and fish oil
Waltham Selected Protein Catfish		catfish, rice, vegetable oil, etc.

CANNED

Hill's Canine D/D	Lamb/Rice Whitefish/Rice	lamb, rice, vegetable oil, etc. whitefish, rice, vegetable oil, animal fat
Nature's Recipe	Rabbit/Rice Venison/Rice	rabbit, rice, potatoes, carrots, peas venison, rice, potatoes, carrots, peas
Sensible Choice	Lamb/Rice Chicken/Rice Turkey/Rice	lamb, rice chicken, rice turkey, rice
Limited Diets	Lamb/Potato Venison/Potato Duck/Potato Rabbit/Potato Whitefish/Potato	lamb, potato, canola oil, salmon oil, etc. venison, potato, canola oil, salmon oil, etc. duck, potato, canola oil, salmon oil, etc. rabbit, potato, canola oil, salmon oil, etc. whitefish, potato, canola oil, salmon oil, etc.
Eukanuba	Fish/Potato	catfish, herring meal, potato, beet pulp, corn oil
Waltham Selected Protein Lamb		lamb, rice

FOOD ALLERGY

Dogs, like humans, can develop a hypersensitivity to certain food substances. Food allergy can occur a few weeks after a diet change or after being on the same diet for several years without any previous problems.

The most common clinical sign of Food Allergy in dogs is ITCHING. It also predisposes dogs to secondary bacterial infections of the skin and ears.

The diagnosis of Food Allergy can only be made by feeding a special **HYPOALLERGENIC DIET** composed of food that your dog has **NEVER** been fed before. Switching to another commercial dog food is NOT a good test, because most dog foods contain similar ingredients.

TREATS

During the diet trial, your dog is **NOT** allowed to have any treats, rawhide chewies, dog biscuits, table scraps, or vitamin supplements. Make sure that he/she is on an UNFLAVORED/NONCHEWABLE heartworm preventative. If your dog eats even ONE bite of a food he/she is allergic to, then the whole diet trial must be started again. If your dog is unrelenting in its begging, an acceptable treat would be a slice of a baked potato with no additives, carrots, or grapes (pick one, don't give a variety).

DURATION

DON'T expect to see immediate results! Normally it takes at least 4 weeks to see significant improvement, but it can take up to 10-12 WEEKS until the itch stops. After this time period, if the itch is controlled, the food allergy can be documented by challenging your dog with the old diet for up to 10 days to see if the signs (itching, infection) recur. If the signs recur, then your dog is food allergic. The options at that point are to either feed the hypoallergenic diet lifelong, or to feed it temporarily while we try to determine specifically what your dog is allergic to. This is done by adding a single different protein to the diet every 2-4 weeks, such as beef, soy, wheat, milk, etc. and using the information gained to select a commercial diet without the offending ingredients.

The IDEAL way to do a food trial is HOMECOOKING. You can choose from the following ingredients:

PROTEINS

pork roast
lamb
fish
rabbit
venison
eggs
tofu
cottage
pinto beans

CARBOHYDRATES

potatoes
brown rice
millet
barley
oatmeal

HOME-COOKED TEST DIET

RECIPE:

1 cup cooked/baked PROTEIN
2 cups cooked CARBOHYDRATE
1 cup chopped VEGETABLES (no corn) fresh or frozen
2 tsp. Canola oil
(+/- 2 tsp. Dicalcium phosphate or bone meal and a nonflavored multi-vitamin if the diet is used for maintenance)

IMPORTANT: Choose ONE type of protein, carbohydrate and vegetable for the entire duration of the diet trial and make sure that it was NOT on the ingredient list of the old food!

Mix the above ingredients together. You can make a large amount and refrigerate or freeze it. Feed the daily amount indicated on the chart below. You can divide the total amount into two daily feedings. Switch over to the new diet slowly and gradually include more of the new food each day (for 5-7 days) until your dog is eating only the new diet.

Body Weight (lbs)

5
10
25
40

Multiply recipe by

1/4
1/2
1
1 1/2

NOTE: This is a **GUIDELINE** for maintaining a dog's normal body weight. **YOUR** dog may require a different amount of food, so check its weight weekly and adjust amount fed as needed.