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However, if you were to feed this on its own it would get quite expensive. It is firm as it should be, and some dogs may poop less frequently and experience less gas. Do this by multiplying her weight in kilograms raised to ¾ power by 70: A 40-pound Aussie is about 18kg, so her RER would be 611 calories. Health Even though this food isn't marketed toward pets with sensitive skin or stomachs, it has helped dogs with such problems find relief. Dogs on this diet do tend to be a bit gassy, but that's due to the high protein, high-fat formula. On the other hand, this food does contain wheat and soy, so it wouldn't be appropriate for dogs who are sensitive to such ingredients. The size and shape of the kibble are similar to Cheerios; it's thin and easy for old dogs to chew. A high-protein kibble alternative would be Diamond Naturals Extreme Athlete dog food. Dogs may be less gassy, too! Health This food is well known for having a positive effect on dogs with skin issues like allergies. Little dogs also have no trouble with this, which is great if your Aussie isn't your only fur baby. Since ingredients are listed by weight, we know that there is a decent amount of grain sorghum in this product. You can use these guidelines as a starting point and adjust your dog's portion as needed. Mix in Some Canned Food There's nothing like canned food to get a dog excited about dinner time. Quick Facts: Life stage: Adult Calories/cup: 341 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 28% Fat: 16% Fiber: 4% Ingredients Nutro Ultra Adult is made with all non-GMO ingredients. Palatability Wellness has puppies running to their bowls to chow down on this food. On Amazon in particular, there seems to be another problem with dog food, which is receiving a product that looks different in some way. Even though this food is meant for all life stages, its high-calorie formula may not be suitable for a retired Aussie that prefers to laze around the house. Health This food can help your Aussie keep that pep in their step by providing appropriate energy for a senior dog. However, a better method would be to calculate your dog's caloric needs while taking into account factors like age, activity level, and even whether or not he's been neutered. Since Aussies are athletic dogs, you'll typically want a food that is high in protein and fat. The can itself has a pull tab similar to a soda can, so you won't need a can opener. Australian Shepherds are gorgeous dogs known for their athleticism. It doesn't contain any corn, wheat, soy, or artificial flavors, colors, or preservatives. Poop that is too hard or too soft is a sign that your dog's diet may not be the best for them. The kibble itself is small, thin, and oval in shape; this makes it easy for both large and small dogs to eat. Problems With Buying Dog Food Online Buying dog food online is incredibly convenient; unfortunately, it comes with its own set of problems. Even if your Aussie doesn't have allergies, this food could still be a good choice as it has good ingredients and is high in calories, protein, and fat. Even picky eaters are interested! Stool Quality Dogs who eat this food have firm, healthy stools. Responsible pet food manufacturers follow AAFCO guidelines and print an AAFCO statement on the bag. Usually, it is the kibbles themselves. Many customers have reported their dogs getting sick after being fed kibble that looked different than usual. Now that you know what to look for, we're going to take you through the best food for your Australian shepherd. If you notice your dog has diarrhea at any point, don't add more of the new food. Now, the second ingredient is grain sorghum, instead. It doesn't contain any chicken by-product meal, corn, wheat, or soy protein. Speaking of stinky, dogs seem to experience less gas, as well! Health Aussies are already beautiful dogs, but prepare to receive compliments on your baby's soft, lustrous coat. Other This food is stinky! Not in a rancid or moldy way, but it definitely has a strong smell. Even picky eaters enjoy it. Other This food is high in calories which is both good and bad. On the other hand, there are some dogs who experience stools that are a little too hard and dry. Stay at the percentage you're on. Making your own chicken broth is easy, but if you prefer to buy something from the store, just make sure that it is low sodium and free of ingredients like onions that are harmful to dogs. All of the foods on our list meet AAFCO standards. It helps senior dogs maintain a healthy weight and a beautiful coat. First, you need to calculate your dog's Resting Energy Requirement (RER). Health The high-protein, high-fat formula of this food is perfect for active and working Australian shepherds. When Choosing Dog Food Lots of us tend to get caught up in the ingredient list when browsing dog foods, but there are so many other important factors. It also doesn't contain any artificial colors or ingredients. Luckily, this is easy! All you need to do is mix your dog's new diet with her old diet over the course of about a week or two: Day 1-3: Mix your dog's dinner so that 25% is the new food Day 4-6: Mix 50% of the new diet and 50% of the old diet. Stool is regular, firm, and often reduced in quantity. Determining how much to feed your Australian shepherd isn't exactly a perfect science. In fact, their stool may even be a bit less stinky. However, your dog's stool is an indicator of how his body is handling food. However, if your Australian shepherd is a retired senior, you may not want a high-fat food as it could lead to weight gain. This is no surprise since Purina took the time to conduct feeding trials to ensure the quality of this product. This often means high-calorie, high-protein and high-fat foods. The Veterinary Medical Center of Ohio State University (OSU) describes just how to do so. However, it does include peas. Not only that, if you feed this to your Aussie, you may notice reduced gas with a less offensive aroma. Just remember that as long as your dog has a healthy coat, normal stools, and her usual energy, her kibble is doing its job. Health Wellness will have your Australian shepherd puppy's coat gleaming. We've gathered info on each of the products on our list so that you'll have a sense of how dogs' stool is affected. It's appetizing and supports healthy growth. It also works great as a training treat and isn't too stinky to keep in your pockets. Wellness included a number of vitamins and minerals for healthy growth, such as DHA for brain development and calcium for bone growth. However, there are some dogs who pick out the "Life Source" bits but eat the rest of the kibble. Health Your dog's health is directly affected by his diet. Other Because this is meat in gravy instead of ground meat, it is much easier to mix in with other food. This also seems to be the reason why some picky dogs are willing to eat this kibble. For instance, "meat meal" could be made of any kind of meat. Picky puppies love it, and the size of the kibble is easy to eat. To make things easier on you, we've created a list of great options for your Aussie as well as a guide to help you determine how much to feed your dog (and how to get her to eat it!). Though not formulated to help with sensitivities, some dogs with digestive and skin issues have shown improvement while on this diet. It also provides definitions of ingredients and outlines maximums for guaranteed analyses at each life stage. Stool Quality Dog's on this diet typically have regular, firm stools that aren't especially stinky. Health This food is great for an Aussie's thick coat; it will keep it shiny and may even reduce shedding. Working Australian shepherds require a lot of energy, but it may be a bit much for companion Aussies who are less active. If your dog has loose stools, this food may be worth a try. The main reason to look at the ingredient list is to be sure that it doesn't contain any ingredients that your dog is allergic to or that you're uncomfortable feeding to your dog. You can recycle Wellness pet food bags at participating retailers or mail them using pre-paid shipping labels. It's also easier for dogs with missing teeth to eat their food this way. An Australian shepherd would likely need to eat four to six cans per day to meet daily calorie requirements (which you can figure out using our guide). This food is also available in a puppy formulation. If your dog has skin issues, this food may be able to help get things under control. Bon Appetit! Dog owners are often more considerate of their dog's diet than their own. Some of the foods on our list have certain benefits such as being optimal for dogs with allergies or improving the look and feel of the coat. It also has omega fatty acids for skin and coat health, along with antioxidants that support the immune system. For those looking to steer clear of foods with legumes, unfortunately, this product does contain peas. Palatability This food is tasty! Or, at least, dogs seem to think so. Stool Quality You may notice soft stool as you're transitioning your dog to this food (even if you've read our guide (and are doing it right), but it should clear up within a week. Check out Nutro Ultra Adult if you're looking for a high-protein, low-calorie alternative. They may be dustier, differently sized or shaped, or a different color. If your dog has sensitive skin, this food may also help keep breakouts under control. The quantity of stool produced is less as well. This product does contain a number of pea products, though. Quick Facts: Life stage: Senior Calories/cup: 318 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 28% Fat: 12% Fiber: 3% Ingredients This food uses meat from cage-free chicken and has added glucosamine and chondroitin for joint health. It also does not use artificial colors, flavors, or preservatives. Unlike many dog foods, this one does not have peas or legumes in the recipe, which is great for anyone looking to avoid such ingredients. If the diarrhea doesn't clear up, it may be a sign that the new food isn't the right choice for your dog. Next, you will need to multiply the RER by another number to determine the final amount of suggested daily calories. Blue Buffalo does not use any meat with added hormones or antibiotics in their products. Quick Facts: Life stage: All life stages Calories/cup: 468 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 26% Fat: 16% Fiber: 4% Ingredients This formula doesn't contain any corn, wheat, or soy, but it does have peas in it. Some dogs with allergies have even seen an improvement in symptoms, such as reduced dandruff and itchiness. This food has successfully reduced symptoms in dogs with skin and stomach issues Proper nutrition leaves fur shiny and healthy High-calorie formula is great for active Australian shepherds Feeding trials have been conducted for this food Editor's Rating: Why we like it: Puppies eating this Wellness formula are healthy and energetic. Some dogs with sensitive skin and allergies have seen improvement in symptoms, such as a reduction in hot spots and itching, while on this diet. Palatability Palatability is how good (or bad) a food tastes to your dog. Quick Facts: Life stage: Puppy Calories/cup: 450 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 32% Fat: 20% Fiber: 5% Ingredients This puppy formula is made without any GMOs or artificial preservatives. It's also lower in calories than most of the foods on our list, which can be a great option for Aussies struggling with weight management. AAFCO Standards The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) is an authority on pet nutrition. It is also free of legumes for those looking to avoid them. We're all willing to go the extra mile to ensure that our dogs are eating a healthy, balanced diet. Aussie owners know that these dogs need a lot of exercise, and it isn't uncommon for them to be used as working dogs on farms. While the saying that a "healthy dog is a hungry dog" is certainly true, dogs that eat this food seem to have their hunger satisfied for longer. But first, let's take a look at some of the factors you should consider while shopping around for dog food. Perhaps the water helps release the flavor of the kibble better. Other The kibbles in this food are great for old and young dogs alike. Nutro Ultra Adult also supports this energetic breed in whatever activity you have planned for the day. Keeps puppy healthy and energetic Kibble doesn't have a strong smell Wellness has a recycling program to keep kibble bags out of landfills Editor's Rating: Why we like it: Blue Buffalo uses quality ingredients that create a tasty diet for dogs. It also doesn't contain any meat by-products, corn, wheat, or soy, but it does contain peas. Nutro is free of GMOs, artificial flavors, colors, and preservatives. Other The kibbles in this food are large enough to use as training treats but may be too large for some interactive toys. Health This recipe is relatively low in calories (350 per can), so it is great for weight management. Shape and size of kibble is great for younger and older dogs May be a good option for dogs with sensitive skin or stomachs Keeps stool regular and firm Some dogs do not like the Life Source bits Contains peas Editor's Rating: Why we like it: This food is free of common allergens such as wheat and soy, so it shouldn't cause your puppy distress. Some foods have different amounts of moisture in them, so you need to compare them on a dry matter basis. Though not marketed for sensitive tummies, the lack of common allergens such as wheat and soy may be beneficial for such issues. Ninety-one percent of the protein is from chicken and egg ingredients, and there is added glucosamine and chondroitin for joint health — a nice touch since Aussies may suffer from arthritis later in life. It also won't upset your dog's tummy. While most dogs are happy with the shape of this kibble, some especially picky eaters might not care for it. Palatability Puppies are excited to eat this food and it smells appetizing to them. The food isn't too hard for older dogs nor is it too big for younger dogs. Quick Facts: Life stage: Adult Calories/can: 350 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 50% Fat: 15% Fiber: 8% Ingredients This food is high in protein which is great for active breeds like the Australian Shepherd. Ingredients Looking at the ingredient list is important, but not for the reasons you may think. If you're looking for an all life stages formula that doesn't have peas in it, try Victor Hi-Pro Plus. Guaranteed Analysis A quick check of the guaranteed analysis will tell you the percentage of protein, fat, fiber, and moisture in kibble. Some dogs are intolerant of or allergic to certain meats, so it's important to know exactly what's in your pup's food. They seem to love the taste, as they are quick to clean out their bowls! Stool Quality Poop is not a problem with this food. After all, it is chunks of meat in gravy. It's also affordable! Quick Facts: Life stage: All life stages Calories/cup: 406 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 32% Fat: 21% Fiber: 3% Ingredients Eighty-eight percent of the protein in this food is taken from animal sources, with 2% being from plants and vegetables and 10% from grains. Affordable High-protein, high-fat formula helps working Aussies maintain a healthy weight Provides ample energy for active dogs 91% of the protein comes from chicken and egg ingredients Does not contain legumes Only comes in a 40-pound bag Dogs on this diet may be gassy Editor's Rating: Why we like it: This food is great for multi-dog households. This may affect the freshness of the kibble. Supports brain and eye development Meat comes from animals that were not given hormones or antibiotics Free of corn, wheat, soy, and artificial flavors and colors Editor's Rating: Why we like it: Dogs find this canned food super delicious. In fact, veterinary nutritionists are urging people to stop making their choices based on ingredient lists alone. Palatability Though we aren't up to tasting this ourselves, dogs seem to enjoy it. Palatability This Purina sensitive skin and stomach formula gets the seal of approval from our four-legged friends. This diet is great for keeping Australian shepherds soft, sleek, and energetic. We prefer canned foods that have gravy in them, like Purina's Tender Cuts in Gravy, because they're much easier to mix with kibble. While the recipe is still a solid formulation, it used to be better in the past with meats taking up the first three slots. Unlike many of Canidae's products, it is not grain-free. Health Puppies being fed Blue Buffalo often have soft, shiny coats. Quick Facts: Life stage: Adult Calories/cup: 470 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 36% Fat: 28% Fiber: 4% Ingredients Diamond uses cage-free chicken in this formula, an ingredient some of us humans don't even treat ourselves to. There's a good chance your Aussie will enjoy the flavor. How to Safely Switch Your Dog to a New Food You're likely reading this article because you're looking to change your Australian shepherd's diet. Stool Quality Puppies can have sensitive stomachs and are often known for their "soft serve" turds. This is a great option for picky eaters who won't eat their dry food without some toppings. Affordable Easy for old dogs to chew Helps seniors maintain a healthy weight Formula does not contain legumes Picky eaters may not like the Cheerio-like shape of the kibble Editor's Rating: Why we like it: Despite being formulated for sensitive skin and stomachs, this product still has a decent amount of protein and fat for active dogs. In general, it's also good to avoid ambiguous ingredients. This is a great diet for working Australian Shepherds. Some picky eaters even like it without any gravy on top. We've taken this table from the Veterinary Medical Center of OSU: Neutered adult RER 1.6 Intact adult RER 1.8 Inactive/obese prone RER 1.2-1.4 Weight loss RER for ideal weight 1.0 Weight gain RER for ideal weight 1.2-1.8 Active, working dogs RER 2.0-5.0 Puppy 0-4 months RER 3.0 Puppy 4 months to adult RER 2.0 Using this chart, a 40-pound (18kg) active Aussie would need 1,223 calories per day (). Quick Facts: Life stage: Adult Calories/cup: 508 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 30% Fat: 18% Fiber: 5% Ingredients This food contains no wheat, soy, corn, beef, chicken, or turkey, so it's great for dogs who have food allergies. It's high in protein but formulated to help with weight management. It helps them keep weight on and prevents exhaustion during strenuous activity. Not only that, it's great for their coats, keeping them thick, shiny, and beautiful. Palatability Lots of dogs leave their food in their bowls all day long, letting it sit for hours before finally eating it. Though this method is more accurate than using a dog food label, you may still need to make adjustments by observing any fluctuations in your dog's weight or energy levels. Either way, it's worth a try. The formula also includes DHA and ARA, fatty acids found in mother's milk that support brain and eye development. Blue Buffalo does not use any meat that has added hormones or antibiotics, either. Other Wellness is making an effort to be green. Since our dogs have to eat the same thing every day, it's important that they like it! Stool Quality When you're looking at foods in a store or online, you aren't going to know how it'll affect your dog's poop. Quick Facts: Life stage: Adult Calories/cup: 378 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 27% Fat: 16% Fiber: 6% Ingredients Blue Buffalo's Life Protection dog food doesn't have any corn, wheat, or soy, nor does it contain chicken or poultry by-product meals. Not that puppies need more energy, but this food will ensure that they have plenty of it. Affordable High protein formula with 88% of protein sources being animals Recipe is free of legumes Dogs remain satisfied for longer when eating this food Dogs on this diet are less gassy Previous formula appeared to have better ingredients Food has a strong smell Editor's Rating: Why we like it: This food is affordable, high in protein and fat, and takes 91% of its protein from animal sources. As the name of the food suggests, it's also beneficial for dogs with stomach problems. Palatability It's no surprise that dogs relish the taste of this food. After the FDA found a link between dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and grain-free foods, many people switched away from grain-free diets and prefer to avoid products that include legumes. Because the main meat ingredient is lamb, this is a great choice for dogs who are allergic to chicken and poultry. Put Warm Water in Your Dog's Food It may seem strange, but some dogs actually like their kibble better after it's become mushy and soggy with water. This food keeps muscles in good shape and makes fur soft and shiny. Use the guaranteed analysis to help you make the best choice for your dog. If any of the kibble you get looks different than what you're used to, do some research to see if the brand changed their recipe. With so many options on the market, though, shopping for dog food can be overwhelming. The food is tasty and helps regulate stool. Palatability Dogs gobble this food down, so the taste must be satisfactory. Therefore, you need to slowly transition your dog onto the new diet. Health Victor Hi-Pro Plus keeps Aussies as their usual active and energetic selves. It's uncertain whether these were instances of a counterfeit product or just a lack of freshness. Wellness also has a program that allows you to recycle the bag in order to reduce waste. On Wellness, puppies have solid, healthy poops. Furthermore, it publishes guidelines for feeding trials so manufacturers can test their recipes on dogs before releasing a diet to the public. However, this food does have a number of extra ingredients (blueberries, chia seeds, kale, coconut, spinach, etc.) which may not work out for especially sensitive dogs. Day 7-9: Mix 75% of the new food and 25% of the old food. They may even produce less waste that is less stinky. Quick Facts: Life stage: Puppy Calories/cup: 398 Guaranteed analysis (dry matter basis): Protein: 30% Fat: 18% Fiber: 6% Ingredients This food is free of corn, wheat, soy, artificial flavors and colors, and chicken (and poultry) by-products. Editor's Rating: Why we like it: The high-protein formula can sustain energetic and working Australian Shepherds of all ages, and 88% of the protein comes from animal sources. However, if you simply buy new food and give it to your dog, it may cause gastrointestinal upset that often leads to diarrhea and vomiting. Every year, it publishes standards for pet food manufacturers to follow. Some dogs have even experienced relief from itchy, dry skin. If your Aussie is suffering from dry, flakey, itchy skin, then you should seriously consider trying this food. This diet is likely to keep your Aussie energetic and maintain her beautiful coat. Stool Quality The Blue Buffalo Life Protection formula is sure to keep your dog regular with healthy, solid stools. Tips for Picky Eaters Some dogs seem to be uninterested no matter what kibble you buy. This is why you should always start with small bags when trying a new food. This recipe is without legumes, so it's a great option for those who want a pea-free food. The gravy also allows you to stretch the product further: mix in a few spoonfuls and store the unused portion in the fridge for later. One of the biggest issues is that dog food bags can get ripped during the shipping process. If you use this as a topper for dry food, then it's affordably priced. Day 10: Feed 100% of the new diet. The first two ingredients are chicken and chicken meal, which are great sources of protein. Unique shape of kibble is great for picky eaters and easy to eat for small and large dogs alike Dogs on this diet seem to have less gas and less offensive stool Some dogs have found relief from allergy symptoms such as hot spots and itching Recipe does not contain legumes Multitude of ingredients may upset dogs who's allergies or digestive issues are especially sensitive Editor's Rating: Why we like it: This food is affordable despite using quality ingredients such as cage-free chicken. We've converted all the foods on our list to a dry matter basis so you won't have to. Stool Quality Dogs eating this food typically have great stool quality. Palatability Though we aren't willing to taste test this ourselves, we can say that dogs love it! Even picky eaters are interested in this food. High protein Highly palatable Pea-free Affordable as a topper Expensive if fed on its own Contains wheat and soy which some dogs may be allergic to Once you've chosen a food, you'll need to know how to safely change your dog's diet and determine exactly how much she should be eating. But first, we have to address some potential issues with shopping online for dog food. First three ingredients are meat meals Dogs on this diet have less stinky poops and toots Picky eaters enjoy it without any toppings High-calorie formula may not be suitable for inactive senior dogs Contains peas Editor's Rating: Why we like it: The unique size and shape of this kibble makes for easy munching regardless of a dog's size and also seems to win over picky dogs. If not, you may want to request a refund. Stool Quality Dogs eating this food have healthy, firm stools. The suggestions on dog food labels are just that, and they don't take into consideration a dog's breed, age, or activity level. It is also free of artificial flavors and coloring. How Much Should You Feed Your Dog? Luckily, the first ingredient is beef meal, which is a dry, concentrated source of meat that isn't making the first slot due to water weight. If you receive a ripped bag, you should definitely reach out to the company to request a refund. The first three ingredients are chicken meal, turkey meal, and lamb meal, which are concentrated sources of animal proteins. Therefore, it's important to feed Australian Shepherds a quality diet that provides them with the energy they need to keep up with their daily activities. This product does not contain any corn, wheat, soy, or legumes. Stool Quality Dogs on this diet typically produce healthy, less stinky stools. It's also great for keeping the coat sleek and maintaining a healthy weight. Top It With Chicken Broth You can either let the food sit and get soggy in the broth or just mix it in. This recipe also has omega 6 and omega 3 fatty acids, as well as probiotics to support digestion. Palatability Picky dogs and voracious eaters alike enjoy the flavor of this kibble, and it seems to keep them satisfied for longer. Nutro Ultra has won over many a picky eater and is not likely to last long after hitting your dog's dish. To reduce the likelihood of such a mishap, make sure you purchase products on Amazon from pet food manufacturers themselves rather than third-party sellers. Stool Quality This diet will keep your Aussie's stools normal and healthy. Dogs with digestive issues such as Inflammatory Bowel Disease have experienced relief from their symptoms. The first three ingredients are concentrated sources of animal proteins, and dogs on this diet tend to poop less and have less stinky stools. They scarf it up without leaving any behind. In fact, even picky eaters are happy to eat this, no toppings necessary. For those looking to avoid legumes, this product is free of peas and lentils. After that, stools are regular and firm. Other Sometimes dog food can be smelly, which isn't the case for this particular recipe. It's exhausting to buy brand after brand of kibble, so we've got some tips to help you.

