



Template: Dog Food Preparation Checklist

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Based on Article: "Dog Food Preparation"

A practical checklist for preparing balanced and safe homemade dog meals.

Checklist Items:

- ☐ **1. Assess Nutritional Needs**
Determine your dog's age, size, and health requirements to establish a balanced macronutrient profile that includes protein, fats, and carbohydrates.
Reference Section: Understanding Canine Nutrition Basics
- ☐ **2. Source High-Quality Ingredients**
Choose human-grade ingredients and avoid common harmful foods like onions and chocolate. Ensure protein sources are fresh and free from additives.
Reference Section: Ingredient sourcing and quality control
- ☐ **3. Design Balanced Meal Plans**
Use a meal template that incorporates appropriate ratios of protein, fat, and carbohydrates for your dog, along with essential vitamins and minerals.
Reference Section: Designing balanced meals
- ☐ **4. Prepare and Batch Cook Meals**
Plan a cooking day to prepare meals in batches to save time. Store them in proper containers to maintain freshness and avoid contamination.
Reference Section: Scaling production and household batching
- ☐ **5. Implement Safe Storage Practices**
Store prepared meals in airtight containers in the refrigerator or freezer, labeling them with dates to ensure food safety.
Reference Section: Food safety, storage, and handling
- ☐ **6. Transition to Home-Cooked Meals**
Gradually introduce homemade meals into your dog's diet over a week to prevent digestive upset, monitoring their response closely.
Reference Section: Transitioning dogs to new diets
- ☐ **7. Monitor Health and Adjust Portions**
Track your dog's weight, stool quality, and energy levels after transitioning, adjusting portion sizes and ingredients as needed to maintain balance.
Reference Section: Troubleshooting allergies and sensitivities

☐ **8. Stay Informed on Supplement Use**

Research and consider necessary supplements to fill any nutritional gaps, consulting with a veterinarian to ensure safety and appropriateness.

Reference Section: When to use supplements and how to avoid common nutrient gaps

☐ **9. Evaluate and Tweak Recipes**

Regularly assess the effectiveness of your meals, making adjustments based on your dog's health and feedback for optimal nutrition.

Reference Section: Recipes, menus, and sample plans