



Template: Dog Food Sampling Checklist

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Based on Article: "Dog Food Sampling"

A practical checklist for dog owners to effectively sample new dog food brands before committing to a full purchase.

Checklist Items:

- ☐ **1. Define Your Goal**
Determine the objective of the sampling trial, whether it's testing for palatability, tolerance, or transitioning to a new diet.
Reference Section: How to Plan a Safe and Informative Sample Trial
- ☐ **2. Establish Baseline Health**
Document your dog's current health status, including existing diet, portion size, feeding times, and any chronic conditions.
Reference Section: How to Plan a Safe and Informative Sample Trial
- ☐ **3. Choose Sample Type**
Select the appropriate sample format such as single-serve sachets for immediate checks or multi-day bundles for digestibility testing.
Reference Section: What Is Dog Food Sampling and Why It Matters
- ☐ **4. Create a Sampling Schedule**
Plan a timeline for introducing the new food based on your dog's needs: healthy adults (7-10 days), puppies (7-14 days), sensitive stomachs (10-21 days).
Reference Section: How to Plan a Safe and Informative Sample Trial
- ☐ **5. Monitor Daily**
Record your dog's reactions daily, including appetite, stool consistency, energy levels, and any signs of vomiting or allergic reactions.
Reference Section: How to Plan a Safe and Informative Sample Trial
- ☐ **6. Adjust Portions Gradually**
Implement a gradual increase in new food portions according to the mixing protocol, like 25% new food on the first day.
Reference Section: How to Plan a Safe and Informative Sample Trial
- ☐ **7. Recognize Red Flags**
Discontinue sampling if your dog shows persistent vomiting, bloody diarrhea, or severe lethargy, and consult your veterinarian.
Reference Section: How to Plan a Safe and Informative Sample Trial

☐ **8. Assess Results**

Evaluate your dog's overall response to the new food to make an informed decision about transitioning permanently.

Reference Section: What Is Dog Food Sampling and Why It Matters