



Template: Homemade Dog Food Checklist

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Based on Article: "Homemade Dog Food: Recipes for Nutritional Excellence"

Website: <https://therenownedhound.com>

A practical checklist for preparing homemade dog food with nutritional balance.

Checklist Items:

- ☐ **1. Understand Dog Nutrition Basics**
Familiarize yourself with the balance of macronutrients (proteins, fats, carbohydrates) and micronutrients necessary for your dog's health. Adjust the diet according to your dog's life stage, activity level, and health status.
Reference Section: Understanding Dog Nutrition Basics
- ☐ **2. Gather Necessary Tools**
Ensure you have a digital kitchen scale, meat thermometer, non-porous cutting board, blender/food processor, and a heavy-bottomed pot or Dutch oven to aid in cooking.
Reference Section: What You'll Need / Prerequisites
- ☐ **3. Source Ingredients**
Collect human-grade proteins like chicken, beef, lamb, or fish, along with whole grains, legumes, vegetables, and fruits. Make sure they are fresh and of high quality.
Reference Section: What You'll Need / Prerequisites
- ☐ **4. Plan Your Macronutrient Ratios**
Determine the appropriate protein-to-fat-to-carb ratios for your dog's specific needs, aiming for bioavailable proteins and digestible carbohydrates.
Reference Section: Understanding Dog Nutrition Basics
- ☐ **5. Create Core Recipes**
Use established recipes to create balanced meals. Start with a basic formula, ensuring it meets nutritional requirements based on the ingredients used.
Reference Section: Core Recipes: Balanced Meals Step-by-Step
- ☐ **6. Prepare for Meal Prep**
Organize your workspace and ingredients. Ensure surfaces are sanitized and ingredients are measured accurately for consistency in each batch.
Reference Section: Meal Prep Workflow and Portioning
- ☐ **7. Cook Safely**
Utilize proper cooking temperatures (e.g., cook poultry to at least 165°F) and follow safe food handling practices to ensure food safety.
Reference Section: Supplements, Safety, and Vet Consultation

☐ **8. Portion and Store Meals**

Portion out meals according to your dog's dietary needs and store them safely in the fridge or freezer to maintain freshness.

Reference Section: Meal Prep Workflow and Portioning

☐ **9. Consult with a Veterinarian**

Before fully transitioning to homemade food, consult with a veterinarian to confirm the nutritional adequacy of your recipes and address any concerns.

Reference Section: Supplements, Safety, and Vet Consultation

☐ **10. Monitor Your Dog's Response**

Observe your dog for any changes in health, energy, or digestion. Be prepared to adjust recipes based on their responses.

Reference Section: Troubleshooting Common Issues