



Template: Dog Food Preparation Checklist

Generated: 11/22/2025

Based on Article: "Homemade vs. Commercial Dog Food: What's Best for Your Pup?"

A practical checklist for dog owners to assess and implement homemade or commercial dog food options for their pets.

Checklist Items:

- ☐ **1. Evaluate Nutritional Needs**
Assess your dog's specific nutritional requirements based on their life stage, activity level, and health needs to determine the right balance of protein, fat, carbohydrates, and micronutrients.
Reference Section: Nutritional Quality — Ingredients, Macronutrients, and Micronutrients
- ☐ **2. Check for AAFCO Compliance**
For commercial dog food, verify that the product meets AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials) nutrient profiles to ensure nutritional adequacy.
Reference Section: Common nutrient pitfalls in homemade and how commercial foods address them
- ☐ **3. Consult a Veterinary Nutritionist**
If considering homemade dog food, consult a veterinary nutritionist to design a balanced meal plan that meets your dog's needs and prevents deficiencies.
Reference Section: When to consult a veterinary nutritionist
- ☐ **4. Plan for Safe Food Preparation**
Ensure a clean preparation area, use appropriate cooking temperatures, and practice safe handling techniques to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.
Reference Section: Safety, Foodborne Illness, and Preservation
- ☐ **5. Transition Diets Gradually**
When changing your dog's diet, gradually introduce the new food over 7-10 days to prevent gastrointestinal upset, monitoring for any adverse reactions.
Reference Section: Simple steps to transition diets safely
- ☐ **6. Monitor Health Changes**
After implementing a new diet, observe your dog's coat condition, weight, and stool quality to assess if the new diet is beneficial and consult the vet if concerns arise.
Reference Section: Signs your dog benefits from fresh, human-grade meals versus commercial formulas
- ☐ **7. Store Food Properly**
Ensure that homemade dog food is stored in airtight containers and refrigerated promptly to maintain freshness and prevent spoilage.
Reference Section: Safety, Foodborne Illness, and Preservation

☐ **8. Incorporate Treats Wisely**

Consider including high-quality treats like Cluckin' Amazing Chicken Jerky as part of the overall diet, ensuring they align with your dog's nutritional needs.

Reference Section: Practical cost and time comparisons for daily feeding