



Template: Dog Food Quality Assessment Checklist

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Based on Article: "The Impact of Dog Food Quality on Long-Term Health: What to Consider"

A practical checklist for evaluating dog food quality to support long-term health.

Checklist Items:

- ☐ **1. Check Ingredient Clarity**
Ensure that the dog food lists named proteins and whole ingredients, avoiding unspecified 'meat meals' or by-products.
Reference Section: What Is Dog Food Quality?
- ☐ **2. Identify Life-Stage Appropriateness**
Verify that the formula is specific to your dog's life stage—puppy, adult, or senior—to ensure appropriate nutritional needs are met.
Reference Section: What Is Dog Food Quality?
- ☐ **3. Evaluate Manufacturer Transparency**
Look for clear descriptions of ingredient sourcing and safety testing practices from the manufacturer to ensure quality and safety.
Reference Section: What Is Dog Food Quality?
- ☐ **4. Consider Nutritional Oversight**
Choose dog food that has been formulated or reviewed by a veterinary nutritionist or follows AAFCO nutritional profiles for reliability.
Reference Section: What Is Dog Food Quality?
- ☐ **5. Assess Protein Quality**
Check if the product uses whole meats and novel protein sources that provide bioavailable protein for muscle maintenance.
Reference Section: How Dog Food Quality Affects Physiology: Mechanisms Explained
- ☐ **6. Ensure Omega-3 Inclusion**
Look for the presence of long-chain omega-3 fatty acids (EPA/DHA) to support anti-inflammatory functions and overall health.
Reference Section: How Dog Food Quality Affects Physiology: Mechanisms Explained
- ☐ **7. Monitor Stool Quality**
Observe your dog's stool for signs of digestibility. Loose stool may indicate poor ingredient quality or nutritional imbalance.
Reference Section: How Dog Food Quality Affects Physiology: Mechanisms Explained

☐ **8. Transition Gradually**

If switching to a higher-quality food, do so gradually over 7-10 days to prevent digestive upset while improving nutrition.

Reference Section: Transition strategies that reduce digestive upset while improving nutrition

☐ **9. Include Healthy Treats**

Incorporate quality treats, like Cluckin' Amazing Chicken Jerky, as a healthy option to enhance nutrition and reward your dog.

Reference Section: Practical ways to evaluate a dog food label beyond the headline claims

☐ **10. Conduct Regular Health Assessments**

Observe changes in weight, coat quality, and energy levels regularly to evaluate the ongoing impact of the chosen dog food.

Reference Section: How Dog Food Quality Affects Physiology: Mechanisms Explained