

Nutrition During Gestation

Croney Research Group



Dogs Need an Appropriate Balance and Amount of Nutrients

Energy!!

- Fats
- Proteins
- Carbohydrates

And

- Vitamins
- Minerals

High energy diets (e.g., for late gestation) include greater fat than diets for adult dogs (maintenance diets)

Dam's Diet While Gestating

- Highly digestible
- High-quality, animal-based protein and fats (oils that provide fatty acids such as DHA are indicated for reproduction and growth)
- Sufficient amounts of vitamins and minerals (docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), vitamin E, vitamin A, magnesium)





Dam's Diet While Gestating Trimesters 1 & 2 (weeks 1-5):

- Greater nutrient not required
- Critical to maintain optimal weight and body condition



Dam's Diet While Gestating

Trimester 3 (Weeks 6-9)

- Protein and energy requirements can increase by 60-80% due to rapid development of puppies (weeks 6-8)
- Transition to a nutrient-rich diet (e.g., puppy food)
- Do not offer too many supplements as these may unbalance the already complete and balanced food
- Feed multiple small meals per day (beginning Week 5)



Learn More:

- [At-a-Glance Nutrition Application](#)
- [At-a-Glance Adult Nutrition](#)
- [At-a-Glance Nutrition During Lactation](#)
- [At-a-Glance Puppy Nutrition](#)
- [Implications of weaning age for dog welfare](#)