



Puppy Info and Recommendations

Product, Nutrition, and basic tools to get you started!

Willow Creek

BORDER



COLLIES

As time grows closer, everyone is getting excited about their new family member and we have had several questions regarding recommendations about nutrition, crates, pee pads and on!

For those of you that are experienced or have another dog in the house, you may not need this information and we strongly urge you to do your homework and make the best choices/decisions for you. There are dozens of different/varying views on nutrition and general care. We will tell you what works for Brenda and I and give you links to items we use and have confidence in, it does not mean you have to use any/all of it. This should be used as a tool for resources and to lead you in the direction of resources to give you tools to make informed decisions.

Nutrition

Nutrition is one of the number one questions we have been asked, and it is probably one of the most debated topics we could start with!

At the end of the day, both Brenda and I believe there are options at almost every price point and just because something works for us, it may not work for you.

How we Feed:

Brenda is on the farm with multiple animals and she does feed kibble, with cooked food as a supplement. She likes to rotate brands (this has been and is recommended, as if one brand is deficient, another often isn't).

I feed RAW when my girls are not whelping and a combination of kibble and cooked raw when they are whelping.

I also have a very picky eater in Riley and can tell you from experience, that can be painful. She is not a fan of Acana at all, will tolerate Orejin and tends to like a kibble for a month and then be done with it.

GRAIN FREE -

The only real 'strong' position we have, Designer diets have no place in your fur baby's bowls. Grain free diets are not only silly, but they are being investigated for serious health conditions including canine heart disease.

While we cannot decide for you, we are apposed to designer diets (that seem cool or 'high end' but are designed by marketers, and yes - I am a marketer!). Please understand that thousands go into 'branding' an image - that is not always superior or even safe.

Inevitably you will be in control but please do your research.

RAW

There are two types of RAW, RAW and 'Cooked'. RAW comes in ground format that you can purchase, and you can also do home RAW (which is what I do). The later can be time consuming and a lot of research goes into ensuring you have the right balance.

Pricewise, I find RAW or "Cooked" to be the same if not less than a higher priced kibble (I shop in bulk, buy on sale or discounted and am relatively good at keeping my prices low.) Cooking or preparing RAW can be time consuming, I am blessed that I work from home with the needed time but it isn't an option for everyone.

If you are interested in learning more about RAW, an excellent resource is RAW university on Facebook. They have a wealth of information including calculators, example diets, nutrition requirements (including corresponding foods that meet those) and a very welcoming and helpful community.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rawfeedinguniversity/>

You can also purchase RAW – pre ground with appropriate values. If this is the route you are considering – I highly recommend you check out Wild at Heart, located in Langley.

They have home delivery and have an excellent resource-based website that will provide you with information you need to make an informed decision.

<https://wildatheartpets.com/>



For those on the island, Growlies has a wide selection of raw.

<https://growlies.ca/>



“Cooked Raw”

Cooked raw is the happy medium between raw and kibble. Cooked diets do away with any E-Coli or salmonella concerns and still offer a solid meal plan.

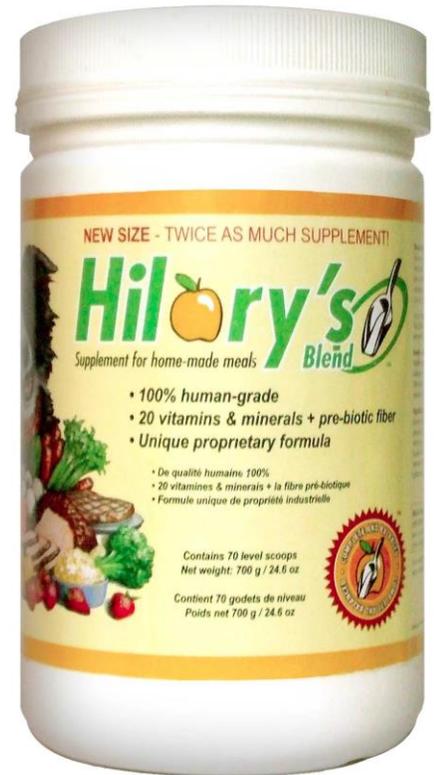
One of the most important things you need to do when cooking is ensuring the diets meet the requirements of for the age/growth and activity of your dog.

You can pay your vet to have a customized diet plan or alternatively you can use Hilary's Blend as a great tool and resource. I use the supplement with my RAW feedings and there is a cookbook that can help you to pick out the best recipe's. I do have Puppy recipes from the book and happy to share those with anyone that is interested.

The supplement is moderately priced, and you can order it from your Veterinarian or alternatively they now offer online purchases on their website



Website: <http://www.completeandbalanced.com/supplement.html>



Treat Recipe

Easy DIY Sweet Potato Dog Chews

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time
5 mins	3 hrs	3 hrs 5 mins

Just like the store-bought treats but a fraction of the price. Dogs love these and they make a great gift! Inspired by *The Dogington Post*, *Dog Treat Kitchen*, *Modern Dog Magazine*, and *food.com*

Course: Snack

Cuisine: American, Canadian

Servings: 40 chews

Calories: 6 kcal

Author: *Sam Turnbull • It Doesn't Taste Like Chicken*

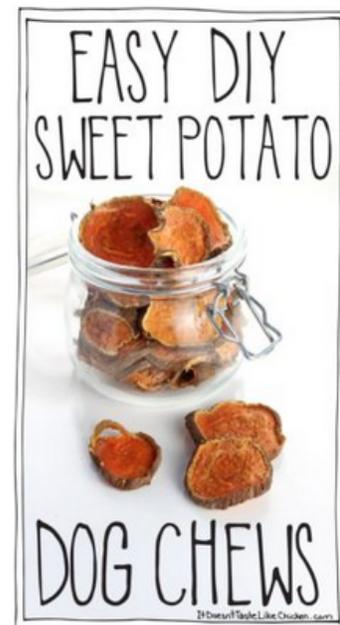
Ingredients

- 2 sweet potatoes

Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 250F (130C). Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Use a knife or mandoline to cut the sweet potato into slices. I sliced mine into coins because my dog is small, but if you have a bigger dog you could slice them lengthwise for larger chews. You don't want the pieces to be too thin, or they will just get crispy and not chewy, so make sure they are no thinner than 1/4 inch (see photos for reference). Arrange them in a single layer on the baking sheets and bake for 2 1/2 to 3 hours flipping once half way through until they are shrunken, dried out, and some pieces are a bit crispy, while others are a bit chewy. Let cool, then store in an air-tight container in the fridge for about 3 weeks.

4.13 from 48 votes



Kibble

I won't cover them all, it would be impossible, but I'll cover the ones I have experience with and a couple recommendations that may surprise you.

For us we are big proponents of Made and **sourced** In Canada and it is super important to note there is a difference. Foods can be made here but product is sourced in the US or Overseas (Kirkland refused to provide information as to where they source as example).

When I first got Riley, I had a Jack Terrier who was 21 (yes, our rocking little queen Isabella!) she was feed Honest Kitchen which is also a great product. It is dehydrated and comes in a base (where you add protein) and full value in various flavors (chicken, turkey, salmon). For Riley I wanted a kibble as they do as puppies need to strengthen their teeth and continue to develop their mouths. I did what most do, went to Bosley's and said 'give me the best'. Keep in mind that large pet stores are just that and their experience is 'branded' for the most part. Today, I would recommend smaller shops with experienced staff, ask their honest opinion, you may find it varies from the chains.

Back to food! They basically gave me two options - Acana and Orijen. I opted for Acana Puppy Junior, which is really not a bad option. The problem for me is a picky eater and after two bags, she was bored. I then went through Orijen and several others. The ones I liked (for coat and skin) were

GO: Canadian made and sourced (made in BC)

Ultra: Again Canadian made

I also found that Riley (and still holds true) prefers limited diets. I was also successful with Natural.

I feed a rotation of the above for several years to both Riley and Lucy. It was not until the Taurine scare in early 2019 that I committed to doing months of research, I simply wanted to know what was in their bowls.

I do still feed kibble and have feed Blue (and feeding Blue Puppy) now with decent success. I have also fed them Purina Pro which always gets a sideways look. Their pro line is one of the top-rated lines in Canada today.

The cheaper version Purina One has also received very good, consistent reviews. In the second case, it is about \$40 for a large bag on Amazon. Again, you can feed a decent diet with a limited budget. Top that off with "treats" like raw carrots, yams, squash and berries or sardines (which you can get in sunflower oil at the dollar store) and you can easily provide them a balanced diet that will produce nice shiny coats and moisturized skin.

Brenda has had success with Nutra (Canadian made) and is available at Walmart and on Amazon (mid-price point, about \$68/bag). Riley's not a huge fan (this should not deter you, she is finicky, finicky finicky!).

Whichever kibble you decide to feed, you can sign up for recalls <https://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-recalls/>

DOG Food Advisor

PLEASE be cautious when reading their recommendations - they are paid and supported by the bigger brands.

There is a decent diet for every budget, supplement with healthy treats and you will have a healthy baby!

BONES

The only bone we recommend is a soup bone, however it is imperative that you look at the circumference, if the marrow area is too large, your puppy or dog could potentially wedge their mouths in the bone (not pretty). opt for small ones, give them two instead of one rather than chance a large bone.

PEANUT BUTTER

A great treat but opt for Kraft that does not contain Xylitol which can be potential poisonous to dogs and is found in several other brands.

TRAINING TREATS

This can seriously drain your bank account. It does not need to. Grab a package of shoulder cut pork chops, throw them in the oven, bake and cut up. For 6 or 7 dollars you can have a weeks' worth of agility or training tips in your treat bag and trust me they will not argue. You could even really spoil them, by a tray of chicken breasts and bake/cut up. Way way way cheaper than the \$35 price tag for dehydrated chicken you will find in the pet stores.

Agility tip: When you are teaching your dog to communicate with you – the best way (although maybe tough on you!) is to hand feed your baby for a week. You want them to look you in the eye before they get a kibble or their food (this may be harder on RAW diets, lol!). It builds your bond, for a week they only eat from your hands and only when they look at you. You can walk around the house or the park (even better as it will build their attention in 'noise' situations). It was a great tool for us, you can use whatever command works best. (i.e. "Ready, Look, Set" - avoid "Get Ready" if you are planning agility as that is an actually ready state, sitting beside you and ready to go!)

Nutrition and Puppy Ready Zoom Class

Bianca (who is also doing our puppy obedience class has also offered to do online group nutrition introductions and puppy readiness classes.

These classes are \$35/ per hour and must have a minimum of 3 attending with a maximum of 6.

Class times are Saturday's at 1PM PST for 1 hour and are conducted on Zoom.

We have tentatively scheduled four classes

Thursday June 18th 6pm - 7pm PST
Saturday June 27th 1pm - 2pm PST

Thursday July 2nd 6pm - 7pm PST
Saturday July 12th 1pm - 2pm PST



Accessories

At the end of the day, part of the fun is the 'accessories' and you can entertain yourself for hours shopping for leashes and collars (and you should) but eventually you will want a solid leash and collar.

We do have an arrangement with a leather smith (if I have not shared that, apologies!) We opted for her for a couple reasons.

1. She uses natural leather. Trust me, you will want this when you are trying to get the dye off your dogs' blaze! Cheaper leather (or fabric) tends to bleed and from experience it is not the greatest look when they have a red collar in March from their Christmas Collars.
2. She was reasonably priced. I researched several Canadian companies and a leash/collar set on average was about \$125 before shipping. Her pricing for a leash and collar was \$70, which we thought was more than fair.
3. Her work is beautiful, it is a timeless leash (you can get it braided or straight) that is 6ft (great for training) and will last a lifetime. If you still want to purchase one, we will put another order in at the end of this week (please just send me an email and we will arrange). They will be shipped to Langley and be available when you pick up your puppy to go home 😊



Crates

Brenda and I do crate train and it is another area where you will need to decide what is best for you.

For us, while there are a couple days of crying, the long-term benefits outweigh the few days of a cranky baby at bedtime. Riley did dabble in agility and if any of you are planning that activity, they will have to be comfortable in their crate as that is the 'off switch' during fun matches or down the road, competitive events.

For me, the crates are furniture and the doors are now always open. There is often a battle for that space and when one comes out, the other goes in.

It is also a nice security and safety for learning how to be alone. Make it a fun place, their special place, with their blanket or bed, their toys, and a space where they feel safe.

In terms of size, you want to purchase one that they will grow into. You can go for the largest 48 inch (they are about \$150.00 and section it while a puppy or you can do the 'large size' and that will be their area and crate for life. You should also consider a travel crate and I am going to be honest and tell you why.

Recommended 48 inch crate or minimum 30'

https://www.amazon.ca/moyenne-pliable-int%C3%A9rieur-ext%C3%A9rieur-plastique/dp/B082F2MVWR/ref=sr_1_16?dchild=1&keywords=large+dog+crate&qid=1591277918&sr=8-16

When Lucy was about 1 year, we were heading to the park. She knows how to roll down the windows and I always have my child lock on. My significant other had driven the truck and turned it off. Not thinking, I head to the park - I turned the corner and out of the corner of my eye - I see Lucy with the window down. I start to slow down and thank god I did because she jumped out of the window and before I was stopped, she was in the park waiting for the 'ball'. I was lucky, she was fine (she's solid stock) but the next day I went and had her fitted for a car harness.

Riley was about a year and we were driving in North Van. She used to stand on the console. A little old lady cut me off, took everything I had not to rear end her. My best friend was with me (thank god) she stopped Riley from going headfirst into the dashboard going 60 km downhill on Lonsdale.

We're not perfect, accidents happen and it's never intended but all my crew are now in the back seat with belt extensions - these little do dads you can get for \$10 in any pet store or online for less.

This is a similar harness (I paid \$50 in the pet store)

https://www.amazon.ca/VavoPaw-Vehicle-Harness-Adjustable-Carabiner/dp/B07RR89CV5/ref=sr_1_4_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=dog+belt+leash&qid=1591223168&sr=8-4-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEyMk1MNlg2WIREUVZGJmVuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwOTA4ODYxNTZaM1hVNEEdDWEIjMmVuY3J5cHRlZEFkSWQ9QTAyMjA1NjgzR1JEQkM0VDJCOEVTJndpZGdldE5hbWU9c3BfYXRmJmFjdGlvdj1jbGlja1JlZGlzZW50JmRvTm90TG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJlZG9n

Travel

Brenda likes crates and if your vehicle can handle it, there's also a perfect option. I like these foldable ones because I have a smaller Sedan (disclaimer, have not used one but it's well reviewed.)



Either way, it is about safety.

Jax's travels in this crate, works well and fits in both my Sedan and Brenda's larger SUV's and Truck.

https://www.amazon.ca/gp/product/B07K942D3Y/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

We also like the 'car benches' if you're using seatbelts - Honestly worth every penny and again usually cheaper on Amazon.

This is the one I have and comes with the seatbelts!

https://www.amazon.ca/Waterproof-Hammock-Protector-Durable-Washable/dp/B07HK3SMLF/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?crid=DNVTMSPPPEK6G&dchild=1&keywords=dog+car+protector&qid=1591223482&prefix=dog+car+pr%2Caps%2C187&sr=8-2-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEwMzRSVjZMTERUM09OJmVuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwODEzNjgzMVg5M1hTRFNNS1NBOSZlbnNyeXB0ZWRBZEIkPUEwNDgyNjE2MIRVWUVFR0xXRjM5RyZ3aWRnZXROYW11PwX2F0ZiZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNRpXRYdWU=

Pee Pads

Yes, you will need them. You can expect your puppy to be 'almost trained' at about 12 weeks but it can take up to 6 months before your sure they're will be no accidents.

With this litter I really wanted to try reusable pee pads and I wanted to wash them, test them before recommending them. I LOVE them. They wash well and they are so much better for the environment not to mention much cheaper than reusables.

These are the exact pads I ordered; they are large so you will not need more than two. The one complaint after washing, they do curl up, but a small piece of masking take will easily keep them in place.



https://www.amazon.ca/gp/product/B07XYX29SL/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_image_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Dog Beds

Stay away from cheap (you'll find they rip them open and their more of a mess than their worth. The best ones we have found are from Costco.

If you don't have a membership - cry to your friend who does '-). They're reasonably priced, durable and Piper has given birth to two litters very comfortable on her bed 😊



The Dollar stores

Yup, there are some things you can get from there and are perfectly fine! We suggest avoiding the toys because they are often made in China and can have toxins in the plastic BUT there are lots of things you can find there

Poop Bags

HOLDERS

Training leashes (these are great, long, and perfect for training stays)

Sardines (in sunflower oil, double bonus if not choose the ones in water, avoid the soy)

Mackerel in water (great supplement)

Canned Salmon

Kraft Peanut Butter

Garden 'gates' (this are a great cheap alternative and I have at least 10 that you will most likely see during video chats)

Training

You are going to be introduced to two different styles and it will be up to you to do what you feel comfortable with. At the end of the day, this relationship is between you and your puppy, what works for one doesn't always work for another and there are pro's and con's on both sides (and lots and lots of research and opinions if you google it).

Brenda and I do not believe in treat training for obedience. For us, it is not necessary, and I reserved treat training for tricks. That is not to say there is anything wrong with it. I did treat/clicker train for all of Riley's tricks but did not find it necessary to do that for basic obedience.

The first two classes with Brenda are complimentary and you will find she is a no nonsense trainer, we both still believe in hierarchy (we won't call it packs) but we do know with multiple dogs, just humans there are leaders and followers and rules that the whole house has to follow.

Bianca has a holistic approach and I believe she uses treats (I have not personally taken a class) we are thrilled to have her in our family, and she does bring a great deal of training to the table. Her classes will be offered for 6 weeks following the introductory course and will be on the farm to allow for appropriate distancing 😊. She also offers zoom classes if you cannot make it in person. I am 100% sure you are going to love her as much as we do, and we are excited to have her training our new family.

I have attached that training program below for those that missed it. We will confirm dates but with travel dates for our puppies in Quebec, it will most likely be the last/first week of July/August for Brenda's sessions and Bianca's will follow in August (**the date on the brochure is tentative!**)

PUPPY OBEDIENCE CLASSES



**CLASSES START AUGUST 2ND AT OUR LANGELY FARM
CLASSES 1 & 2 ARE COMPLIMENTARY TO ALL OUR BC OWNER'S**

- 1 Meet and Greet, Puppy Playtime, Intro to Basics with Brenda (Willowcreek Border Collies)
- 2 Border Collie Basics, Understanding their natural instincts with Brenda (Willowcreek Border Collies)
- 3 Puppy Development, Puppy Handling, Head to Toe, Body Language with Bianca (Bianca's Dog Care)
- 4 Bite Inhibition, Puppy Language while Playing, Introduction to Leash, The Rule of 12
- 5 Bite Inhibition, Guard, Stop & Swipe, Rule of 12, Separation Anxiety
- 6 Touch Target, 5 second rule, Positive reinforcement
- 7 Calm greetings, Loose Leash Walking, Recall, Rule of 12
- 8 Trouble shooting, Review, Recall, Fun Agility Cues

6 Week Obedience Class with Bianca \$185, classes will be held to a maximum of 6 puppies and multiple classes will be available if needed.

WILLOWCREEK BORDER COLLIES