

## Recommended Canine Diets

### **Dry Diets**

- Orijen
- Acana
- Fromm
- Zignature

### **Canned Diets**

- Fromm
- Zignature
- Party Animal
- Wild Calling
- Bravo
- Stella and Chewy's (Freeze-Dried)

Mounds carries many of these brands at all of their locations. Nutzy Mutz and Crazy Catz in Madison (locations on Lakeside St., off of John Nolen Dr. and on Midvale Rd. in the Midvale Plaza Shopping Center) carries a wide variety of dry and canned diets. Their staff is very knowledgeable and can assist you in choosing an appropriate food for your dog.

### **The top five things to look for on commercial dog food labels are:**

1. Read the ingredients panel and look for real food ingredients. Look for products with ingredients that you can readily identify as actual food ingredients. If you can't explain to someone what an ingredient is, it's probably not something you want to feed your dog. For example, chicken versus chicken by-product meal.
2. Look for named whole meat ingredients to be listed as the first several ingredients. Whole meats include chicken, beef, lamb, duck, turkey, pork, bison, or rabbit. Organ meat and meat meals are ok, but they should not be the first ingredients listed.
3. Read the "guaranteed analysis" and check the percentage of protein and fat in a diet. How much fat or protein your dog should consume depends on many factors including your dog's age, breed, weight, activity level, and overall health. Your veterinarian can help you determine the appropriate amounts of fat and protein for your dog.
4. Look for the product's AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials) statement. The AAFCO seal of approval means that the food has been formulated to meet specific standards of nutritional adequacy. Also be sure the diet is listed as "completely balanced" or has some similar statement marked on the package.
5. Find and check the foods "best by" date. Foods that are past the "best by" date are likely to have lost some of their nutritional value. Canned foods tend to retain their nutritional value longer than dry foods. Dry foods are more prone to rancidity as they age.