

PUPPY RAISING NUTRITIONAL POLICY

We appreciate the cooperation of all raisers and leaders in complying with the following puppy raising nutritional policy:

Guide Dogs for the Blind feeds and recommends Hill's Science Diet formulas for all of our dogs. At the GDB puppy kennel, prior to placement in a raiser home, puppies are fed **Hill's Science Diet Puppy Large Breed**, a formula selected through collaboration between the GDB Veterinary and Kennel Departments. Research has shown, and GDB experience concurs, that large breed diets are effective in helping to limit certain canine orthopedic maladies.

Leaders and Community Field Representatives (CFRs) will educate raisers on feeding puppies, emphasizing proper body conditioning which will enhance health and improved orthopedic development. Raisers will feed Hill's Science Diet Puppy Large Breed until the puppy is at least of 12 months of age.

Raisers will start feeding 8-week-old pups 1 cup, 3 times a day and then slowly increase the amount of food following instructions given by their leaders and the feeding guidelines in the Puppy Raising Manual. At your first puppy meeting, ask your leader when and how much to increase your puppy's food. Because each puppy is different, it may require different feeding amounts than what is listed on the puppy food bag or in this policy.

If your puppy is not doing well on Hill's Science Diet, have your leader speak to your CFR, who can evaluate the dog's individual needs and make additional suggestions in feeding schedules, home behavior monitoring, feeding amounts, and diets.

CFR's will notify the GDB Veterinary Clinic of any dog's dietary change for recording in the veterinary record. In addition, within their final Project Record, raisers will record any dietary change, the date of change, and the factors for the change.

Dogs in training at our campuses are fed **Hill's Science Diet Adult Original**. In order to provide for a more seamless transition of puppies from raising homes to the training kennel, we recommend that raisers gradually switch their puppies to Hill's Science Diet Adult Original at 12 months of age. Raisers should make the change to the new diet over a period of 5-7 days, gradually replacing the previous food with the new one.

- At GDB's determination, variations may occur in the above policy guidelines for a variety of reasons, including
 - a. The special needs of individual dogs under the supervision of or consultation with the GDB Veterinary Clinic.
 - b. Future research in canine nutrition
 - c. Further knowledge gained by GDB through GDB conducted food trials or other research.