Fact sheet 4 - Feeding Your Dog

Greyhounds and Lurchers tend to do well on complete diets. Some find high protein diets too rich and some diets can make some dogs ‘hyper’. Take time to find out what suits your dog best. Be aware though, these sudden changes of diet will probably give your dog diarrhoea and he may suffer from that when he first experiences the changes that being in a new home brings. If you are changing your dog’s food, always do this gradually over at least 4 days, to ensure that your dog becomes used to the new diet.

Having a small digestive system, your dog will do best on two meals a day. As a rough guide the total daily intake for a small greyhound or lurcher is about 350 grams, and for a large dog about 450 grams. If you buy a complete food, this will have daily feeding guidelines on it. But like us, dogs vary individually and you need to keep an eye on your dog’s condition and adjust the food accordingly. Use the chart below.

![Diagram of a greyhound with annotations]

- **a** You should be able to feel, but not see, three vertebra
- **b** You should be able to feel, but not see, the hip bones on either side
- **c** You should be able to feel, but not see, three ribs.
Your dog will need a raised food bowl. Deep chested dogs find it difficult to eat off floor level. You can buy a raised stand from the GRWE shop, or your local pet shop should be able to provide one. Make sure your dog has access to clean water at all times.

You may sometimes wish to use your dog’s meals as part of his daily activities. Food toys such as Kongs and treat balls can be a fun way for your dog to work for his food, making it last longer and giving them a mental workout too.

If his coat is dull it will soon improve if you add a dessert spoonful of oily fish twice a week (pilchards or sardines – not tuna). Or you can give evening primrose oil instead.

Please remember that dogs do not ‘steal’ - this is a word from the human vocabulary. If you leave food where your dog can reach it he will naturally mop it up. Please read Fact Sheet 5: Rescue Dogs and Food, to help you understand how rescue dogs often feel about food.