

Which Commercial Dog Food is Best For My Dalmatian?

Purine Content in Dog Food

As Dalmatian owners, we are told that one of the preventative measures we can take to reduce the incidence of our dog forming ammonium urate urinary calculi is to watch the purine content of foods we feed our dalmatians. How can we monitor the purine content of commercial dog food when the purine content is not listed on the bag? One way is to look at the list of ingredients and minimize or avoid foods with ingredients that are high in purines. Since this can be a daunting task, the Urinary Stone Committee contacted Commercial Dog Food manufacturers and asked for the purine content of their dog food. The responses we received are in the table below. The list of foods was gathered from an inquiry on a Dalmatian Facebook group in late 2014.

Dog Food	# responses	Contacted	Company Response
4Health Lamb & Rice	3	Yes	No response
Acana Wild Prairie Grain Free	2	Yes	Thank you for your email, I do apologize for the delay in response. Because of the high fresh meat protein content in our diets, they are considered moderate to high in purine content. The diets with the lowest purine content are ACANA Lamb & Okanagan Apple and Duck and Bartlett Pear (Regional Red for ORIEN). I can have a document put together for you with purine levels for our foods, is there a date that you need this by?
Annamet Encore	1	No	
Artemis	0	Yes	Thank you for your inquiry. We do not test our foods for purine content. Our foods are complete and balanced for healthy pets and are not formulated for specific medical conditions, which is why we do not run this specific testing.
Avoderm	0	Yes	Thank you for your email. We always appreciate hearing from pet parents. We are very sorry but we do not test for purine levels in any of our formulas. It is not a standard or required analysis. We understand your concerns and apologize that we do not have the necessary information to meet your needs. We will make sure your inquiry and comments are shared for future consideration. Thank you for contacting Breeder's Choice.
Blue Buffalo Chicken & Rice	4	Yes	No response
Blue Buffalo Grain Free Turkey & potato	1	Yes	
Blue Buffalo Healthy Weight Chicken & Brown Rice	1	Yes	
Blue Buffalo Lamb & Rice	1	Yes	
Blue Buffalo Wilderness Chicken	2	Yes	
Blue Grain Free	1	Yes	
Blue wilderness Puppy	1	Yes	
Burns	1	No	
California Natural Lamb & Rice	1	Yes	No response
Canidae Life Stages	2	Yes	No response
Canidae Pure Sea Salmon & Sweet Potato	1	Yes	
Canidae Lamb & Rice	1	Yes	
Castor & Pollux	0	Yes	No response
Chicken Soup for the Soul	2	Yes	Thank you for contacting us. Chicken Soup for the Soul diets are complete and balanced for normal, healthy dogs. Our diets are not designed to treat specific medical conditions. Therefore, we don't conduct testing and analyses targeted to address specific medical conditions. Please let us know if you need more information.
Dad's	1	No	
Diamond Naturals Chicken & Brown Rice	2	Yes	
Diamond Naturals Grain Free	1	Yes	We do not do purine testing. We don't market our formulas as any sort of treatment or preventive. We do not market or advocate our foods to be fed to Dalmatians.
Eagle Pack	0	Yes	No response
Earthborn Primitive	1	No	
Eukanuba Excel Chicken	1	Yes	Thank you for contacting us. I saw that you wrote to both IAMS and Eukanuba. The response is the same for all of our products, so I am only sending one reply. At this time, we do not measure purine levels in our dog foods. I'm sharing your Club's interest in this type of information with the rest of the Team. Messages like yours help to direct our future decisions. Please contact us anytime through our E-mail Us Now page located on our IAMS web site at www.IAMS.com . We would also welcome your call Monday through Friday from 9:00-6:00 EST at 1-800-525-4267.
First Mate Grain Free Atlantic Salmon & Whitefish	1	N	
Flint River Ranch Lamb	5	Yes	Looking back we think that we'd been part of a similar study by the Dalmatian Club years ago. But a lot has happened since then. As Flint River Ranch doesn't make medical diets, we do not actively test for purine levels in our formulas. Regardless, over the years we advise our customers to be educated on purine and the various ingredients that can lead to higher uric acid levels in their pets foods. We have found over the years that most owners of Dalmatians are getting the best results from our Senior Plus and our Lamb, Millet & Rice formulas. As these formulas are naturally low in purine effect due to their formulation and ingredients, and there isn't a high protein count to concern these owners. Please let me know how I can be of further assistance to your study.
Flint River Ranch Trout & Sweet Potato	3	Yes	
Flint River Ranch Fish & Chips	1	Yes	
Fromm Chicken a la Veg	6	Yes	No response
Fromm Duck & Sweet potato	1	Yes	
Fromm Gold	2	Yes	
Fromm Puppy	1	Yes	
Fromm Salmon a la Veg	2	Yes	
Fromm Tunaini	1	Yes	
Grandma Lucy's Artisan Chicken	1	No	

Dog Food	# responses	Contacted	Company Response
Halo	0	Yes	According to our consulting Vet none of our foods are low enough in Purine concentration to feed to your Dalmatian. Since they have a genetic defect and normal commercial diets are going to be insufficient to help prevent recurrences. The only diet we have that may even come close would be Vegan dry but if you dog already has stones then I would not recommend that either. We do not have the actual levels but with her knowledge on the problem with Dalmatians she does not think our food is fit for you. I am so sorry that I don't have more that I can offer you, but I do hope this helps. Have a great day.
Hills Chicken & Brown rice	1	Yes	
Hills Science Diet	6	Yes	
Hills Science Diet UD	1	Yes	Thank you for taking the time to contact us. We are delighted to help you today. We are very confident in the effectiveness of each of our products, but do realize that because each pet is different and responds differently to nutritional management, the usefulness of these foods will have limitations based upon each pet's individual needs. The testing that is done behind the scenes when our products are formulated for specific medical needs, such as, urinary issues are all done by our Scientist and Veterinarians that design our products. We do not have specifics on the testing that is performed when formulations of our products is ongoing and we are not allowed to release information about our formulation processes that lead to the manufacturing of our finished products as that is information that legally belongs to Hill's® Pet Nutrition. Comments from our pet parents are one of the most important sources we have for measuring the quality and acceptance of our products and the services we provide. We appreciate that you took the time to contact us and share your feedback. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to call our Consumer Affairs Department toll free at 1-800-445-5777 or visit our website at HillsPet.com.
Hills UD	4	Yes	
Honest Kitchen Force	1	Yes	Thank you for contacting us with your poll. We do not do testing for purine levels, because most of the ingredients that are high in purines we do not have in our diets. The highest ones being kidney, liver, sardines and grains. When we have a dog that needs a low purine diet we steer them to our grain free diets that do not have red meat in them. We have a Dalmation in our office who eats a rotation of Keen, Force, and Embark. :) He's over 12 years old and still acting like a pup. He's been eating our foods most of his life, too, and has never had an issue with stones. He's one of the lucky ones! I hope this helps, have a wonderful day!
Honest Kitchen Preference	1	Yes	
Honest Kitchen Turkey	3	Yes	
Honest Kitchen Zeal	1	Yes	
Iams Puppy formula	1	Yes	
IAMS Lamb & Rice	2	Yes	Thank you for contacting us. I saw that you wrote to both IAMS and Eukanuba. The response is the same for all of our products, so I am only sending one reply. At this time, we do not measure purine levels in our dog foods. I'm sharing your Club's interest in this type of information with the rest of the Team. Messages like yours help to direct our future decisions. Please contact us anytime through our E-mail Us Now page located on our IAMS web site at www.IAMS.com . We would also welcome your call Monday through Friday from 9:00-6:00 EST at 1-800-525-4267.
Innova	0	Yes	No response
Kirkland Chicken & Rice	1	Yes	Thank you for your inquiry. Kirkland Signature Super Premium Pet Foods are formulated to meet the daily nutritional needs of healthy dogs. We do not make distinctions between dog breeds nor specific medical needs, so we do not test purine levels. Please let us know if you have more questions or need additional information.
Merrick Grain Free Real Texas Beef & Sweet Potato	1	Yes	
Merrick Grain Free Lamb	1	Yes	No response
Merrick Grain Free Chicken	1	Yes	
Natural Balance Bison & Sweet Potato	2	Yes	
Natural Balance Chicken & Sweet Potato	3	Yes	
Natural Balance Duck & Potato	2	Yes	Thank you for contacting Natural Balance Customer Care and for your interest in our products. Please know that we do not have any formulas that are designed for dogs with specific urinary conditions. All of our products meet the AAFCO nutrient guidelines for their indicated life stages, and our formulas are completely balanced diets for normal healthy pets only. With this being said, we do not regularly test our products for purine levels. Therefore, we do not have any data concerning the purine levels in our products.
Natural Balance Fish & Sweet Potato	1	Yes	
Natural Balance LTD Lamb & Rice	3	Yes	
Natural Balance Vegan	2	Yes	Our Vegetarian formula is a vegan product which may be an option to consider, since purines are usually associate with animal proteins and not necessarily with the type of vegetables in the diet. This diet is also our lowest in protein and mineral content. However, it is best to consult with the pet's veterinarian prior to using any of our products. If you have any additional questions, please call and speak with our Customer Care Specialists at the phone number below. Have a nice day!
Natural Balance Vegetarian	3	Yes	
Nature's Domain	1	No	
Nature's Recipe Grain Free Salmon & Pumpkin	1	Yes	
Nature's Recipe Salmon & Sweet potato	2	Yes	Thank you for contacting us to ask about purine in our dog foods. The health of pet is of vital importance to us, so we're happy to have a chance to respond. I'm sorry to tell you that we don't have information on the purine levels in our products. Since we don't produce an therapeutic diets, we haven't undertaken an initiative to asses the purine content in our finished products. I discussed your question with our veterinarian, and if the Dalmatian Club of America is interested in doing your own testing, we'd be happy to recommend some third-party laboratories that can perform these tests on finished products. Just use the link below to let me know. We wish you the very best of luck with this important project, Tracie. If you have any other questions, let me know using the link below.
Nature's Recipe Vegetarian	1	Yes	

Dog Food	# responses	Contacted	Company Response
Nature's Variety Pairie Chicken & Brown Rice	1	Yes	We do not test the purine level in our diets. All of our diets tend to be low in purines based on the ingredients. Purines are naturally occurring though in all foods.
NutriSource Chicken & Rice	1	No	
Nutro Ultra Adult	2	Yes	Thank you for taking the time to contact us. We value the opinions of our consumers and take their feedback very seriously. Your feedback is no exception. We do not routinely test for purine levels in our pet foods, as it is not an AAFCO required nutrient. Purine levels are generally monitored in Prescription Diets, not commercial pet food. If you have additional questions or comments, feel free to give us a call at 1-800-525-5273, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Central time.
Nutro Lamb & Rice	2	Yes	
Nutro Chicken & Rice	2	Yes	
Nutro Natural Choice Chicken Brown Rice & Oatmeal	1	Yes	
Orijen Puppy	2	Yes	No response
Orijen Adult	1	Yes	
Pedigree	2	Yes	No response
Pet Pantry Holistic Lamb & Rice	1	Yes	No response
Pinnacle Grain Free Salmon & Potato	1	Yes	Thank you for your email. We always appreciate hearing from pet parents. We are very sorry but we do not test for purine levels in any of our formulas. It is not a standard or required analysis. We understand your concerns and apologize that we do not have the necessary information to meet your needs. We will make sure your inquiry and comments are shared for future consideration. Thank you for contacting Breeder's Choice.
Pinnacle Grain Free Turkey & Potato	1	Yes	
Pioneer Naturals Chicken	1	No	
Precise Holistic Salmon & Garbanzo beans	1	Yes	No response
Pro Plan Chicken & Rice	4	Yes	No response
Pro Plan Lamb & Rice	2	Yes	
Pro Plan Select Turkey & Barley	4	Yes	
Pro Plan Sensitive Stomach	5	Yes	
Pro Plan Selects Grain Free	1	Yes	No response
Pure Vita	1	No	
Pure Vita Turkey	1	No	Thank you for contacting Nestlé Purina PetCare Company. We appreciate your interest in our products. Lower urinary tract diseases in dogs are quite different from those in cats, and urinary pH is less of an issue in canine conditions. Currently, testing dog foods to determine the urine pH after feeding is not required testing. This testing is only required for products that make a claim that the product promotes a healthy urinary tract. At this time, we are not manufacturing any dog foods that make a urinary tract health claim. Again, thank you for contacting Nestlé Purina PetCare Company.
Purina One Beef & Rice	1	Yes	
Purina One Chicken & Rice	5	Yes	
Purina One Sensitive System	1	Yes	
Purina One Smartblend Healthy Puppy	2	Yes	No response
Purina One Smartblend Lamb & Rice	3	Yes	
Rachel Ray Grain Free	1	No	
Raw - DIY	27	N/A	
Royal Canin UC	4	Yes	No response
Royal Canin Vegetarian	1	Yes	
Simply Nourish Chicken & Brown rice	3	No	No response
Sojo	5	No	
Solid Gold Holistic Blend	2	Yes	Thank you for reaching out. We do not test our products for Purine content. I'll contact our nutritionist to see if this might be an option.
Sportmix Wholesome Chicken & Rice	1	No	
Springs Natural Salmon Grain Free	1	No	No response
Taste of the Wild - Sierra Lamb	2	Yes	
Taste of the Wild Pacific Stream Salmon & Potato	3	Yes	
Taste of the Wild Wetlands Roasted Fowl	1	Yes	
Total Canine Pork	1	No	No response
Vital Essence	1	No	
Wellness	1	Yes	Thank you for taking the time to write about Wellness® products. All of our Wellness recipes are meat based and encourage an acid urine. Wellness diets for dogs do not have lower than the AAFCO minimum level of protein and we do not test for purines. It is not the intent of the formulation of the diet to produce low purine content. I hope this information helps please let us know if you have any other questions. Thanks again for contacting us.
Wellness Limited Ingredient Salmon and Potato	1	Yes	
Wysong	0	Yes	Thank you for your recent e-mail. The dry matter analysis chart is available on the Wysong website in the Learn section: http://www.wysong.net/pet-health-and-nutrition/dry-matter-analysis-of-wysong-pet-foods.php . Note that to view the entire document, you have to click where it says "click here to view the PDF." However, purine content is not calculated. Dr. Wysong has never advocated feeding by analysis, nor does he formulate based upon this. His holistic and varied approach actually argues against feeding by the numbers, so to speak (see the Optimal Health Program™, Does Your Pet Need A Percent of Something?, and the 100 Pet Health Truths Program). If you have any further questions please let me know.