INSIDE FLAP • KEEPER HABITS

4 Keys to Long-Term Health

Small Daily Habits That Prevent 95% of Vet Visits

Read the Sentence, Not the Front Photo

A bag with a cute puppy picture on the front might still exclude puppies over 70 lb — always read the AAFCO sentence on the back!

Introduce Textures Early to Kittens

Serving pâté, shreds in broth, and dry kibble during kittenhood helps prevent extreme texture pickiness later in life.

Puppy-Safe Chew & Toy Sizing

Young puppies have fragile baby teeth — choose puppy-specific rubber toys and size-matched chews from our Puppy section.

Gradual Life-Stage Switches

When it's time to graduate from puppy/kitten food to adult food, follow the new bag's gradual transition instructions.

Don't Add Extra Calcium to a Complete Large-Breed Puppy Food: Because AAFCO already sets strict calcium-to-phosphorus limits for large-breed puppy growth, adding extra calcium powders or bone meal on top of a complete diet throws off that balance. Let the complete large-breed formula do its job!

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

1. VERIFY YOUR LIFE-STAGE STATEMENT

- ☐ Puppy / Kitten: AAFCO 'Growth' or 'All Life Stages' Confirmed on Back of Bag
- ☐ Big Puppies (≥70 lb Adult): Confirm Statement Includes Large-Size Dogs!
- ☐ Adults & Seniors: AAFCO 'Maintenance' or 'All Life Stages' Confirmed

2. HYDRATION, WET FOOD & TRAINING

- ☐ Puppy or Kitten Wet Cans / Pouches (Great for Hydration & Stuffing Toys)
- ☐ Soft, Pea-Sized Puppy/Kitten Training Treats (Count Toward Daily Calories!)
- ☐ Measuring Cup Marked for Your Pet's Current Age & Weight Row

3. BOWLS & PUPPY/KITTEN ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Shallow Whisker-Friendly Kitten Dish OR Non-Skid Puppy Bowl
- ☐ Slow-Feeder Bowl or Lick Mat (If Your Puppy Gulps Meals Fast)
- ☐ Puppy-Sized Chew Toys (Check Package Weight & Age Line)

MY PUPPY / KITTEN GROWTH LOG & FEEDING LOG

Pet Name & Weight: _____

Current Food & Protein: _____

Treats / Chews & Notes: _____

Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Questions about labels, picky eaters, or switching foods? Stop by or call our team anytime — we're here for the full from baby to senior!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • CARE GUIDE

Puppy, Large-Breed Puppy & Kitten Nutrition

AAFCO Growth vs. All Life Stages • The 70 lb Large-Breed Puppy Rule • Adult & Senior Transitions



The Quick Version: 'Complete and balanced' on a pet food bag is only true **for the specific life stage printed in the AAFCO statement on the back** — never go by the cute puppy or kitten photo on the front! Growing puppies and kittens need **Growth (or All Life Stages)** nutrition, and puppies that will weigh **70 lb or more as adults** have a special AAFCO calcium rule on the label that every big-dog owner should know.

QUICK VITAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

APPLIES TO **Puppies, Kittens, Adults & Seniors**	GROWING PETS NEED **AAFCO 'Growth' or 'All Life Stages'**
LARGE-BREED CUTOFF **70+ lb Expected Adult Weight**	AAFCO SENIOR RULE **No Official 'Senior' AAFCO Stage**

WHEN TO SWITCH

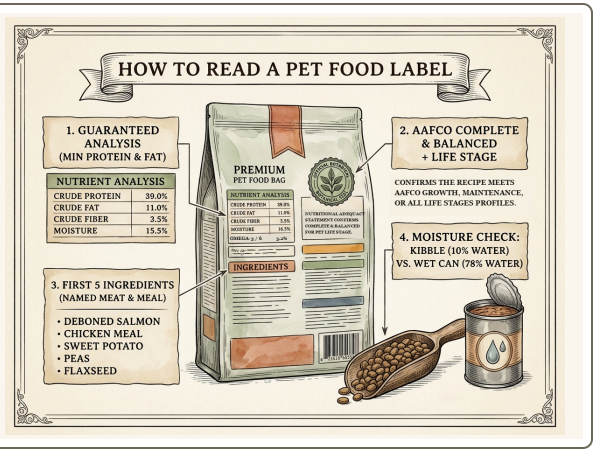
Follow the Maker's Bag Chart!

OPEN FOR LABEL RULES, BRANDS, FEEDING TIPS & CHECKLIST →

STEP 1 • LABEL & NUTRITION BASICS

How to Match the AAFCO Statement to Your Pet's Age & Size

Older Bags & Newer 2023 'Pet Nutrition Facts' Bags Word the Stages Slightly Differently — Learn Both!



Growth (Puppies / Kittens)
For growing puppies & kittens (and pregnant/nursing moms)
Higher Energy/Nutrients

Large-Breed Puppy (70+ lb)
AAFCO sets a controlled calcium limit for dogs ≥70 lb as adults
Check 70 lb Line!

All Life Stages
Formulated to meet AAFCO growth AND adult maintenance profiles
Check 70 lb Exception

Adult Maintenance
For fully grown adult dogs & cats — NOT built for growing babies!
Grown Adults Only

'Senior' Labeled Foods
AAFCO has no separate senior profile — read the AAFCO line (Adult/All)
Adult Maintenance

Frequent Buyer Program: Just give your phone number at the register at any of our 6 stores — buy 10 to 12 bags of most food brands and your next bag of the same size is free!

STEP 2 • STOCKED STORE OPTIONS

Two Ways That Work

Pick Option A or Option B Based on Your Home Setup

Big-Dog Puppies: The 70 lb AAFCO Calcium Line You Must Check

AAFCO sets a lower maximum calcium limit for growth foods fed to puppies that will mature at **70 lb or more**:

LOOK AT THE END OF THE AAFCO SENTENCE ON EVERY 'PUPPY' OR 'ALL LIFE STAGES' BAG
Many bags end with: *'...including growth of large size dogs (70 lb. or more as an adult)'* — meaning it **is safe** for your big puppy! If it says *'...except for growth of large size dogs (70 lb. or more as an adult)'* (newer bags: *'except puppies >70 lb as an adult'*), do **not** use it as a big puppy's main food.

DEDICATED LARGE-BREED PUPPY FORMULAS
As Hill's states on its label, large-breed puppy recipes are crafted 'with an optimal level of calcium for controlled bone growth.' Ask our crew to walk you to our **Dry Food - Large Breed** puppy section!

Kittens & Nursing Moms: High-Protein, High-Moisture Growth

Kittens double their weight rapidly in the first months and have tiny stomachs:

PAIR KITTEN WET FOOD WITH KITTEN DRY FOOD
Look for an AAFCO statement covering **growth** or **kittens**. Offering both wet kitten food (for hydration and easy chewing) and dry kitten kibble introduces varied textures early so your kitten doesn't grow into a single-texture picky adult cat!

NEVER FEED ADULT 'URINARY' FORMULAS TO KITTENS OR NURSING MOMS
Many adult over-the-counter urinary cat foods print a restriction on the bag stating they 'should not be fed to pregnant or nursing cats or to kittens' because acidifiers and mineral levels don't match kitten growth.

When to Switch From Puppy/Kitten to Adult — And How 'Senior' Bags Work

Every breed matures on a different timeline (toy breeds finish growing much earlier than giant breeds):

CHECK THE MAKER'S FEEDING CHART ON THE BACK OF YOUR BAG
Instead of guessing a month from memory, turn your puppy or kitten bag over — the manufacturer's age/weight chart shows exactly when their growth curve transitions to the adult formula.

WHAT ABOUT 'SENIOR' DOG & CAT FOODS?
AAFCO does not have an official 'senior' nutrient profile — so every senior bag carries an **Adult Maintenance** (or All Life Stages) AAFCO statement, tailored by the maker for older pets' calories, fiber, or joint/kidney support.

STEP 3 • DIET & NUTRITION

Puppy, Large-Breed Puppy, Kitten & Senior Lines We Stock

Flip Any Bag Over With Our Crew — We'll Read the AAFCO Life-Stage Sentence Together!

Puppy & Large-Breed Puppy Fromm, NutriSource, Farmina N&D, Nulo, Orijen & Acana	Dedicated Small/Medium Puppy and **Large-Breed Puppy** formulas (with the AAFCO 'including growth of large size dogs 70 lb+' statement verified on the bag).
Kitten Dry, Wet & Freeze-Dried Tiki Cat Baby, Weruva Kitten, Fromm Kitten, Nulo & NutriSource	High-protein, moisture-rich kitten mousses, shreds, and small-bite kitten kibbles built specifically for feline growth and gestation/lactation.
Adult & Senior Life Stages All Flagship Brands + Senior Wet & Dry	Calorie-appropriate adult maintenance and senior recipes, plus soft pâtés, bone broths, and hip/joint mobility chews for older dogs and cats.

Portion Sizing & Growth Tips:

- **Start With the Bag Chart:** Use the maker's weight & age chart on the back of the bag as your starting daily portion
- **Divide Into 2–3+ Meals:** Young puppies and kittens digest smaller, more frequent meals better than one big bowl
- **Adjust as They Grow:** Re-check the bag's weight row every few weeks as your puppy or kitten gains weight
- **Limping or Sick Puppy?:** Sudden lameness, vomiting, blood, or refusing food in a puppy/kitten goes straight to the vet

Smooth Transition Rule: Follow the gradual mixing chart printed