



How, When, and Why? Weaning Your Pregnant Bitch onto Puppy Food

As a responsible breeder, one of the key considerations you'll encounter is how to optimally feed your pregnant bitch. At the Natural Dog Food Company, we understand nutrition plays a crucial role in ensuring mum maintains good health and vitality throughout her pregnancy and beyond. This article aims to explain clearly and concisely the importance of weaning your pregnant bitch onto puppy food, when the best time to do this is, and exactly how to manage the transition effectively.

Why Puppy Food for a Pregnant Bitch?

Pregnancy is a demanding period that requires optimal nutritional support to sustain the growing puppies and keep mum in peak health. During this time, her nutritional requirements change dramatically. A growing litter requires nutrients, energy, and minerals at far higher levels than a normal adult maintenance diet can typically offer.

At the Natural Dog Food Company, our specially formulated Puppy Food provides the higher calorie content, elevated protein levels, and carefully balanced minerals that are essential during pregnancy. This complete, balanced, and natural dry kibble meets the precise nutritional needs that mum will have during the later stages of pregnancy, ensuring she remains healthy, active, and comfortable.

When to Introduce Puppy Food

Timing is crucial when introducing Puppy Food to your pregnant bitch. Usually, for the first four to five weeks of pregnancy, her regular high-quality adult maintenance diet will suffice. However, around the fifth or sixth week of gestation, you should gradually introduce puppy food into her daily routine.

This stage is significant because puppies experience accelerated growth during the latter weeks of pregnancy, increasing the nutritional demands placed upon their mother significantly. By week six, puppy growth is rapid, placing greater demands on the mother's nutritional reserves.

Transitioning at this time helps mum comfortably and adequately manage these increased nutritional demands.

How to Transition onto Puppy Food

Introducing new food should always be done gradually, reducing the likelihood of digestive upset or refusal. We recommend you begin by mixing the new Puppy Food with mum's existing adult food. Start slowly, offering 25% Puppy Food mixed with 75% of her normal food for the first two to three days. Monitor her appetite and stool consistency carefully during this time.



If there are no digestive disturbances or refusal to eat, increase the ratio to 50/50 for another two days. Following successful acclimatisation, move onto 75% Puppy Food mixed with 25% regular food. After a week, provided she continues to tolerate the transition smoothly, you can safely feed her 100% Puppy Food.

Always ensure fresh drinking water is available at all times, especially as dry kibble diets require ample hydration for optimum digestion and nutrient absorption.

Benefits of Using Natural Dog Food Puppy Kibble

The Puppy Kibble from the Natural Dog Food Company is specifically designed to support mum's pregnancy and nursing stages. Our high-quality ingredients include carefully selected meats, beneficial whole grains, essential oils, and vital nutrients, supporting robust puppy development and maintaining mum's health.

The nutritional advantages include:

- **Increased Calorie Density:** To help sustain energy and weight throughout pregnancy.
- **Higher Protein Levels:** Essential for puppy growth and mother's muscle maintenance.
- **Balanced Calcium and Phosphorus:** Critical for the skeletal growth of developing puppies and maintaining maternal bone density.
- **Omega 3 and 6 Fatty Acids:** To maintain healthy skin and coats for both mother and puppies, and support cognitive development in puppies.

After Whelping—Continuing Puppy Food

Following the birth, mum's nutritional demands will remain high. The process of lactation places considerable strain on her body, requiring continued nutritional support. We recommend continuing with Puppy Food throughout the nursing period until puppies begin weaning (typically at around four to five weeks of age).

Professional Support from The Natural Dog Food Company

At the Natural Dog Food Company, we pride ourselves on providing support for breeders and dog owners alike. For personalised feeding advice, or if you have any questions about your pregnant bitch's nutritional needs, our experienced team is ready to help. Visit our website or contact us directly for guidance tailored specifically to your dog's individual requirements.

Remember, your pregnant bitch's nutrition directly affects the health and vigour of her puppies. Choosing the right food and managing the transition well provides the very best start for a healthy, happy litter.