

WORKING TOGETHER, PERFORMING BETTER

How Nutrition Affects Gundog Performance

Training, handling and genetics are important – but nutrition is the foundation that supports every part of your gundog's performance, health and well-being.



MORE ENERGY

Better stamina and consistent energy throughout the day.



FASTER RECOVERY

Efficient recovery helps dogs return to training stronger.



STRONGER MUSCLES

Supports lean muscle mass, power and injury prevention.



SHARPER FOCUS

Proper nutrition supports mental focus, trainability and impulse control.



HEALTHY JOINTS

Helps maintain mobility and comfort for long-term performance.



FUELING THE WORKING DOG

Gundogs are athletes. Their bodies need high-quality protein, appropriate fat levels, essential vitamins and minerals, adequate hydration and sufficient calories to match their workload. Without the right balance, performance can decline long before physical signs become obvious.



ENERGY AND ENDURANCE

Nutrition has a direct impact on energy management. A well-balanced diet helps support better stamina, steady energy throughout the day, improved recovery after exercise and better overall body condition.



RECOVERY BETWEEN TRAINING SESSIONS

This is where progress happens. Good nutrition helps repair muscle tissue, replenish energy stores and adapt to physical demands – so your dog returns to training fresh, fit and ready to perform.



MAINTAINING MUSCLE CONDITION

Strong muscles drive speed, power, endurance and joint stability. High-quality protein provides the building blocks for lean muscle mass and supports ongoing repair and development.



MENTAL FOCUS AND TRAINABILITY

Nutrition influences overall well-being, which affects a dog's ability to concentrate, control impulses, make decisions and respond to handlers. A dog that feels good, works better.



SUPPORTING JOINT HEALTH

Retrieving, jumping and working on rough ground all place stress on joints. Maintaining a healthy weight and providing balanced nutrition helps support mobility, comfort and long-term soundness.



HYDRATION MATTERS TOO

Even mild dehydration can affect stamina, recovery, temperature regulation and concentration. Always provide fresh water, especially in warm weather and during intense activity.

FEEDING ACCORDING TO WORKLOAD



A gundog's nutritional needs change throughout the year.

- ✓ During training: higher energy and nutrient needs
- ✓ During the shooting season: additional energy to maintain condition and performance
- ✓ During rest periods: adjust food intake to prevent unnecessary weight gain

Monitor body condition regularly to ensure your dog is getting the right amount of food.

EVERY DOG IS DIFFERENT



There is no one-size-fits-all feeding plan. Factors such as breed, age, metabolism, workload and training intensity all influence nutritional requirements.

Work with your vet or a canine nutrition professional to create a plan tailored to your dog.



“Great gundog performance is built on many things, but it all starts in the bowl.”