

# Belcroft Cocker Spaniels - Feeding suggestions

<http://www.dogs.net.au/belcroft>



The following information is provided for guidance only, please check with your Vet, and read labels and instructions carefully. Find the time to check out your local dog food supplier – they have a range of meat, dry food, vitamins, leads, brushes etc and will sometimes deliver, such as Pets Pantry

Stores to check include:

- |                                            |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ■ Mulgrave Pet Supplies in Springvale      | Mega Pet warehouse in Ringwood | Direct Pet Supplies in Thornbury |
| ■ Robbo's Pet Barn in Dandenong South      | The Pet Shed in Airport West   | Priority Pets in Dandenong       |
| ■ Hoppers Crossing Pet Food and Stock feed | Pets at Home in Fountain Gate  |                                  |

## WATER

Fresh, clean water should be available at all times, both inside the house and outdoors. Heavy based ceramic/pottery or stainless steel make good water bowls as cockers can sometimes be 'water dogs' and play in the water on a hot day. Plastic ice –cream containers are handy – but are lighter weight so can be tipped over or chewed.

## MEAT

We recommend and use fresh, **raw** meat to feed our Cocker Spaniels. This includes a variety of meats fed daily: Our adults get 250gms (8 ounces) of fresh raw meat each day, along with a premium dry food or biscuit.

- Chopped or minced beef (be wary of puppy mince as this tends to have too much fat)
- Chicken mince (we get our chicken from butchers/ specialist chicken shops for around \$3 a kilo – great value and a terrific food))
- Chicken wings – chopped for younger pups, adults can get them whole
- Chicken necks
- Lamb necks, flaps, shanks
- Ox Cheek
- Occasionally a teaspoon of chopped liver, kidney or heart

**FEED RAW MEAT - DO NOT COOK OR HEAT THE MEAT**

## **DRY DOG FOOD (also called kibble, biscuits)**

This is fed daily as it supplies carbohydrates and contains added supplements such as vitamins, minerals, or wheatgerm. We recommend a Premium or Super Premium dry food. Otherwise a good quality 'brand' name such as Pedigree/ Advance and Supercoat. Read the labels carefully as a lot of the cheaper dry dog food tends to have added colour, sugar etc. Vets and Pet warehouses sell a range of 'premium' dry foods – bit more expensive, but worth it. 'Premium' brands include Eukanuba, Royal Canin, Pedigree Advance, Hills Science Diet, Pro Plan and Nutrience.

We feed our pups Pedigree Advance for puppies. The adults are fed on Eagle (an American Super Premium dry food) and Advance. On behalf of the producers of Eukanuba, we are currently trialling the new Eukanuba Spaniel mix due for release in July 2009, and are finding it very good for the cockers. The following are usually available from supermarkets:

- Pedigree PAL (Uncle Bens /Mars product)
- Supercoat – Puppy and Performance (Adult) (Purina product)

## **USE OF DRY FOOD**

For puppies we place the required amount of dry food into their bowl, adding enough just boiled water to soften the dry into a soft consistency. After about 15 – 20 minutes add the milk (if a milk feed) or meat, oils, supplements and mix well by hand or spoon/fork

Adults have just a splash of boiled water to soften the dry food and add fluid to aid digestion.

## **VITAMINS AND SUPPLEMENTS**

For glossy coats and overall good health we feed our dogs a variety of supplements. These include a home made mix of Brewer's yeast; Wheatgerm; vitamin C and kelp or a prepared product called Pets All Natural Health Booster or Livamol.

We also use oils daily – canola, vegetable, safflower or corn, or a special supplement called 'Omega Oil' which includes a variety of oils.

## **CALCIUM**

We feed a calcium supplement until they are between 6 – 9 months old. Read labels carefully for correct dosage. Chicken wings, necks and dog chicken mince are good sources of calcium in themselves and we don't add calcium when using these meats. We use 'Calcium Sandoz'. Check with your Vet.

## **MILK**

We have fed the puppies on lactose free milk (UHT type) and Biolac animal milk, mixed with soaked dry food as the 'milk meal' in the feeding chart. Sometimes dogs have an intolerance to lactose – check with your Vet if you have any questions. 'Puppy Porridge' products are now also available if you wish to feed a prepared product, read the labels as these often contain sugars and oil.

## **HEARTWORM**

This is a preventable disease. Heartworm tablets can be administered daily, monthly or yearly; we do ours daily as it is easier for us to remember a daily ½ tablet (adult dose) mixed in with the evening meal than a monthly dose!

## **YOUR FOOD AS COCKER FOOD**

In general, Cocker Spaniels will eat just about anything. Don't feed chocolate, biscuits etc. Left overs from your evening meal, such as rice, pasta, vegetables are fine, add to their meal and mix through. Our Cockers love the occasional treat of toast and vegemite for breakfast; we also feed the puppies scrambled eggs and meat on a weekend for breakfast. Our adults get a weekly feed of rice, chicken wings and raw grated vegetables as their daily meal.

**When your puppy leaves Belcroft at 8 weeks old they have been fed about ½ cup DRY food per day over 4 meals, as adults they will eat around ½ - 1 cup PER DAY in total depending on their level of activity + meat and additives.**

## BELCROFT Feeding suggestions

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AGE OF PUPPY	MORNING	LUNCH	EVENING	SUPPER
<p><b>From 8 weeks</b></p> <p><b>- 4 meals per day</b></p> <p><b>You can change the order of these meals eg Milk mix for breakfast</b></p>	<p>150-200 gms <b>meat</b> mixture (5 - 6 oz)</p> <p>Made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55 – 85 gm fresh mince beef/ chicken (2-3 oz)</li> <li>• PLUS 55 -85 gm (2-3 oz) soaked dry food</li> <li>• Mix meat and soaked dry food through with your hands</li> <li>• Calcium</li> <li>• A little vegetable oil</li> <li>• Maybe a little PAL Puppy Food</li> </ul>	<p>100 – 125 ml (4 - 5 oz) <b>milk</b> mixture.</p> <p>Made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soaked dry food</li> <li>• Fresh low fat, powdered or lactose free milk</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weetbix/ Oats and milk</li> </ul>	<p><b>REPEAT</b> morning meat meal</p> <p><b>PLUS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi vitamin powder or tablet</li> <li>• Oil</li> <li>• Calcium</li> <li>• Heart worm tablet (if daily version) follow instructions</li> </ul>	<p><b>REPEAT</b> Lunch time milk meal</p>
<p><b>From 12 weeks</b></p> <p><b>- 4 meals per day</b></p> <p><b>- increase size of meals</b></p>	<p>170 – 225 (6 - 8 oz) <b>meat</b> mixture</p> <p>See above</p>	<p>125 – 150 ml (5 – 6 oz) <b>milk</b> mixture</p> <p>See above</p>	<p><b>REPEAT</b> morning meat meal</p> <p><b>PLUS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi vitamin powder or tablet</li> <li>• Vegetable oil</li> <li>• Calcium</li> <li>• Heart worm tablet (if daily version) generally ¼ tablet at this age, follow instructions</li> </ul>	<p><b>REPEAT</b> Lunch time milk meal</p>

AGE OF PUPPY	MORNING	LUNCH	EVENING	SUPPER
<p><b>From 16 weeks to 6 months</b></p> <p><b>- 3 meals per day</b></p>	<p>225 – 280 (8 – 10 oz) <b>meat</b> mixture</p> <p>See above</p>	<p>125 -150 ml (5 – 6 oz) <b>milk</b> mixture</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Small handful of dry food or dog biscuits</p>	<p><b>REPEAT</b> morning meal</p> <p><b>PLUS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi vitamin powder or tablet</li> <li>• Vegetable oil</li> <li>• Calcium</li> <li>• Heart worm tablet (if daily version) generally ¼ tablet at this age, follow instructions</li> </ul>	<p>Nil</p>
<p><b>From 6 months to 9 months</b></p> <p><b>- 2 meals per day</b></p>	<p>150 – 200 ml (6 – 8 oz) <b>milk</b> meal</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Small handful dry food as an alternative</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>250g (8 oz fresh) <b>meat</b> – incl chopped beef, chicken wings, chicken necks, ox cheek</p> <p><b>PLUS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About 1 cup dry food (1/2 cup soaked down, ½ cup dry)</li> <li>• 1 tablespoon oil</li> <li>• Multi-vitamin powder or tablet</li> <li>• Heartworm tablet (follow instructions, generally ½ tablet from this age)</li> </ul>	<p>Nil</p>

AGE OF PUPPY	MORNING	LUNCH	EVENING	SUPPER
<p><b>Over 9 – 12 months</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>1 meal per day</b></li> <li>- <b>feed when it is appropriate for your family/ lifestyle.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Small handful of dry food if you want or 1 hard dog biscuit.</p> <p>Reduce the evening meal dry food if you also fed in the morning.</p>	<p><b>Nil</b></p>	<p>200 – 250gm (8 oz) ) fresh <b>RAW meat</b></p> <p><b>PLUS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ½ cup to 1 cup dry food (1/2 soaked down, ½ dry)</li> </ul> <p>(tend to use LESS in quantity of the Premium dry foods)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-vitamin tablet or powder</li> <li>• 1 tablespoon Oil</li> <li>• Heartworm tablet</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nil</b></p>

Remember, we are only a phone call away if you have any questions !

David & Merryn Bellamy  
 Belcroft cocker spaniels  
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