



THE NATURAL AUTHORITY™

ON SMALL BREED DOGS

Why is a small breed formula important?

Other than size, small breed dogs are physiologically different than larger dogs and require targeted nutrition to support their unique needs for:

Growth & Ageing - Small breed puppies grow very rapidly, reaching full physical maturity at about eight months of age, which is much earlier than larger breeds that may not reach maturity until about 18 months. The average life expectancy of small breeds is also about seven years longer than larger breeds. Small breed dogs have a higher metabolism than larger dogs, and therefore may benefit from nutrient-dense foods.

Appetite - Small breeds can be fussy about food. Research has shown small breed dogs are more likely to refuse a meal and are more inconsistent with the amount of food they consume daily. As a result, small breed owners often offer a variety of highly palatable foods like table scraps, which increases the potential for small breeds to become a finicky eater or overweight.

Oral Health - Dental health issues are more common in smaller breed dogs. Dental calculus (tartar) is present in approximately 53% and periodontal disease in 18% of small breed dogs 8 – 15 years of age (Data on file at The Nutro Company). Small breed dogs can have more dental issues because of overcrowding of teeth in smaller mouths and a longer lifespan, since dental health decreases with age. Poor oral health impacts the quality of life of small breed dogs, it may also contribute to decreasing longevity as well.

Skin & Coat Health - Small breed dogs can have issues with itchy skin, which may result from genetics, immune function, or the environment, such as dry air from indoor heating and cooling or pollutants from urban living.

Urinary Tract Health - Small breeds are more prone to urinary tract issue because they urinate less often, have higher urine pH, lower urine volume, and higher urinary calcium concentration (Stevenson et al., 2001, AJVR 62:1782-6). Nutritional solutions for reducing urinary tract issues in small dogs include feeding a food with balanced minerals for urinary tract health and/or feeding at least 25% of their daily calories from wet food.

What are the key components of a Small Breed Formula?

Balanced Nutrition for Each Lifestage – Because small breeds spend the majority of their lifespan as adult and senior dogs, feeding diets formulated for the correct life stage (puppy, adult, and senior) is recommended for optimal health. Small Breed diets should include an optimal proportion of proteins and fats to help meet the high energy needs of small breed dogs for each lifestage.

Antioxidants - Vitamins E & C, lutein and taurine protect cells against the damage caused by ageing and the environment and help promote a healthy immune system.

Highly Palatable - WALTHAM® research has determined an optimal kibble size, shape, moisture and nutrient profile to provide small dogs with highly palatable kibble. High quality ingredients, with fresh poultry or meat as the first ingredient, enhance the taste of dry kibble.

Oral Health Kibble - A unique kibble design can help to naturally clean teeth, reducing the build-up of plaque and tartar around crowded teeth.

Linoleic Acid & Zinc - WALTHAM® research has shown that a patented combination of linoleic acid and zinc improves coat shine, decreases coat dander, and improves the moisture barrier of skin in dogs.

NUTRO® Small Breed Formulas are based on the natural nutrition principles described in this article.

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Issued: January 25, 2011
Reference #: DOG01