

AAFCO Nutrient Requirements for Dogs

Nutrient (% or per kg of diet)	Growth and Reproduction Minimum	Adult Maintenance Minimum	Adult Maintenance Maximum
Protein (%)	22.0	18.0	
Arginine (%)	0.62	0.51	
Histidine (%)	0.22	0.18	
Isoleucine (%)	0.45	0.37	
Leucine (%)	0.72	0.59	
Lysine (%)	0.77	0.63	
Methionine + cystine (%)	0.53	0.43	
Phenylalanine + tyrosine (%)	0.89	0.73	
Threonine (%)	0.58	0.48	
Tryptophan (%)	0.20	0.16	
Valine (%)	0.48	0.39	
Fat (%)	8.0	5.0	
Linoleic acid (%)	1.0	1.0	
Minerals			
Calcium (%)	1.0	0.6	2.5
Phosphorus (%)	0.8	0.5	1.6
Ca:P ratio	1:1	1:1	2:1

Nutrient (% or per kg of diet)	Growth and Reproduction Minimum	Adult Maintenance Minimum	Adult Maintenance Maximum
Potassium (%)	0.6	0.6	
Sodium (%)	0.3	0.06	
Chloride (%)	0.45	0.09	
Magnesium (%)	0.04	0.04	0.3
Iron (mg/kg)	80	80	3,000
Copper (mg/kg)	7.3	7.3	250
Manganese (mg/kg)	5.0	5.0	
Zinc (mg/kg)	120	120	1,000
Iodine (mg/kg)	1.5	1.5	50
Selenium (mg/kg)	0.11	0.11	2
Vitamins			
Vitamin A (IU/kg)	5,000	5,000	250,000
Vitamin D (IU/kg)	500	500	5,000
Vitamin E (IU/kg)	50	50	1,000
Thiamine (mg/kg)	1.0	1.0	
Riboflavin (mg/kg)	2.2	2.2	
Pantothenic acid (mg/kg)	10	10	

Nutrient (% or per kg of diet)	Growth and Reproduction Minimum	Adult Maintenance Minimum	Adult Maintenance Maximum
Niacin (mg/kg)	11.4	11.4	
Pyridoxine (mg/kg)	1.0	1.0	
Folic acid (mg/kg)	0.18	0.18	
Vitamin B ₁₂ (mg/kg)	0.022	0.022	
Choline (mg/kg)	1,200	1,200	

^a Nutrient requirements are indicated on a dry-matter basis and are per kg of diet, *not* per kg of body weight of animal. These AAFCO nutrient profiles for dog foods presume an energy density of 3.5 kcal ME/g dry matter. Rations >4 kcal/g should be corrected for energy density.