



# ARDEN GRANGE

**nutrition sans compromis**

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## Fact Sheet – Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: My dog is suffering from loose/soft stools, what advice can you give me?**

**A:** Has he been eating too much? Has he been scavenging and eating rubbish? He may be reacting to an ingredient in his diet - avoid the four main dietary allergens wheat, beef, soya and dairy products. All Arden Grange foods are free from these allergens, so should be easily utilised by even the most sensitive digestive system. Arden Grange Fresh Salmon & Rice is particularly good for sensitive dogs.

Could he have a bacterial imbalance? Try serving some live yoghurt with his food, also half a banana mixed in, as this contains fructo-oligo-saccharides (FOS), which acts as a food source for the 'good' bacteria in his system. All Arden Grange products contain pre-biotics that also promote friendly bacteria.

**Q: My dog is overweight, what can I do to help him lose weight?**

**A:** A gradual weight loss should be aimed for, either by using Arden Grange Adult Light dog food, or by keeping him on his normal Arden Grange food and reducing the amount given per meal.

Cut out any in-between-meal snacks you may be giving him. Have your meals in a separate room from him, so that family members are not tempted to give him 'tid-bits' from their plates. Any rewards you give him should be taken from part of the measured daily allowance of his Arden Grange food. Gentle exercise should be a part of his daily routine until he is fit enough to enjoy longer walks again.

Remember that, although it may seem hard to deny your pet extra food, an over-weight dog will be putting too much strain on the joints and internal organs, and could predispose him to arthritis, heart conditions and diabetes. Ultimately this could affect his longevity if not addressed.

**Q: My Dog is underweight, how can I help him to gain weight?**

**A:** Has he been wormed recently? What are his faeces like? Firm and well formed or soft with no defined shape?

If they are soft then see response to first question above, and if there is no improvement he should have a veterinary check to make sure that there is no underlying cause.

If his faecal matter is normal, then he may have a greater need for a little more carbohydrate than he currently has in his diet. Dogs that are naturally anxious, over-active or stressed may fall into this category. In this case the recommended food would be Arden Grange Adult Premium, Adult Large Breed or Adult Performance.

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**Q: My Dog is suffering from itchy, irritated skin—what could be causing this and how can I improve it?**

**A:** An impaired immune system, hormonal imbalance or parasite infestation could be responsible. Both deficiencies and excesses of certain nutrients can cause skin problems. There could be many reasons for his condition, but first of all check out his diet to make sure that he is not eating any foods that contain wheat or beef as these may be the main culprits. Even one biscuit or a small piece of toast could cause a reaction.

All the Arden Grange foods are free from wheat and beef (even our dog treats - Crunchy Bites), but Arden Grange Fresh Salmon & Rice is particularly good for those with skin problems. This diet has been carefully formulated to provide the ideal ratio of Omega 6 to Omega 3 essential oils, using high quality salmon oil and whole linseed. Optimum levels of vitamins and a chelated source of zinc are also included to maximise skin health.

**Q: My dog is a fussy eater. How can I encourage him to eat?**

**A:** All Arden Grange foods are extremely palatable and readily enjoyed by most dogs. However by pouring warm water onto the dry pellets further enhances palatability, as it will soften some of the high quality fats, which then give off an enticing and wholesome aroma. The worst thing you can do is to keep changing their diet, as they will constantly change their mind as to which food they fancy today, and you may have created a fussy eater for life. Never make an issue out of their meal times, put the food down for them and pretend to occupy yourself with something else in the vicinity. If they have not eaten in your allotted time frame, then take up the dish and let them see that you are throwing it away and are not disturbed by what has happened. **Always put fresh food down for your pet at their next mealtime.**

Sometimes dogs will be seeking attention by not eating, but do make sure that there is no underlying health reason for their depleted appetite. Puppies often have reduced appetites during the teething process, which usually occurs between 4.5 - 6 months, as they can have swollen gums and sore mouths. Adult males can refuse food if there is a female 'on heat' in their vicinity. A sudden loss of appetite should be reported to your vet if there is no obvious cause, since it may be indicative of a medical condition.

**Q: My dog suffers from Colitis. Which food would be recommended?**

**A:** If your dog exhibits symptoms of colitis (inflammation of the large bowel) an easily digestible food should be given. Make sure that water is always available and not restricted. In mild cases (where the faeces are slightly soft with evidence of mucous), offering smaller, more frequent meals can help. Because all of our Arden Grange foods are hypoallergenic and contain high quality protein sources, any of our products would be suitable. If fresh blood is present in small quantities in the stools, this is often indicative of irritation to the lining of the colon. It is not usually serious, but as with any medical condition, it is recommended that advice is sought from your vet. Dark blood in the stools is far more serious, and may be evidence of bleeding from the small intestine. If this is the case, you **MUST** inform your vet.

Colitis can have many causes, but the most common is due to bacterial infection. The vet may ask you to collect a sample of faeces for analysis (this should be taken prior to the administration of antibiotics in order to provide a true representation of the bacteria present within the sample).

Any Arden Grange foods should be suitable for your dog depending on their life-stage. Feeding the daily portion divided into 2 meals is kinder to the dog's digestive system. Moistening the dry kibble with warm water, leaving it for 10-15 minutes to cool and absorb the water before feeding, allows for easier digestion. This method should only be used if your dog eats his food readily, as if left for long periods, the high quality fats used in the food will become rancid.

Feeding a high quality diet that is unlikely to stimulate an allergic reaction in your dog may help to suppress the inflammation in his colon and may prevent a recurrence.

**Q: My dog is getting older and has become less active recently. What should I feed him?**

**A:** As your dog ages, so do his internal organs, and it is even more important to feed him a high quality diet so as not to burden his kidneys further by dealing with too many waste products. He will probably not be as active as his former years so can manage on a less calorie dense diet, but the ingredients must always be high quality and readily utilised.

Arden Grange Adult Senior is a perfect food for most older dogs, as it has a lower protein level of 22% while maintaining all the necessary ingredients he still requires to keep him in good condition. All Arden Grange foods contain Glucosamine, Chondroitin and MSM to assist in maintaining healthy joints and cartilage. In our 'Senior', 'Large Breed' and 'Performance' foods we include four times the recommended maintenance levels, as these are the groups of dogs with a greater need for these micro-nutrients.

**Q: What makes Arden Grange foods super-premium?**

**A:** A true super-premium food is one that has been designed for the dog's digestive system. Although the dog is known as an omnivore, his teeth alone would indicate that he is a meat-eater, therefore a diet with high meat inclusion should be the food of choice where high quality ingredients are used giving good digestion.

All Arden Grange foods are classified as truly super-premium.

**Q: My dog is not touching his food. Why could this be?**

**A:** Does he look unwell? Is he lethargic? Has he a high temperature? Has he an upset stomach? Are his glands swollen? Is he stressed? If a puppy - is he teething? Has he signs of periodontal disease? Is there an 'on heat' bitch in the area? If the answers to the above are positive then a visit to the vet should be your first action.

However, if answers to the above are negative, then could you be trying to give him too much food in one large meal - it is always better to feed two smaller meals during the course of the day. Is he having sufficient exercise or is he bored with his life-style and needs more stimuli? Unless unwell or extremely greedy, dogs will normally eat to their energy requirements.

**See also the previous paragraph on 'fussy eaters'.**

**Q: My dog has an intolerance to corn. What should I feed him?**

**A:** Few dogs have a true intolerance to a QUALITY corn ingredient. Whereas many dogs have an intolerance to 'gliadin' which is the protein fraction of wheat gluten. Ingredient listings

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in both dog food and human food should be checked to make sure that these dogs do not receive wheat as part of their diet.

Arden Grange foods include only high quality rice and ground yellow corn as the carbohydrate part of their diets, and will NEVER include wheat, as this is invariably the carbohydrate, which causes many dogs to react adversely.

**Q: Will my dog get tired of eating the same food on a daily basis?**

**A:** As long as your dog enjoys his food, digests it easily (learn to be a 'poo' watcher, as it can tell you a lot about the health of your dog), has good energy levels, healthy skin and coat condition and good muscle tone, then why should you inflict on him our human desire for different foods each day?

Dogs have a much shorter digestive tract than we have, so it is important for him to eat a high quality, easily utilised food, as his digestive process has to take place over a lesser surface area than in humans. Too many changes in his diet stand the risk of upsetting his gut, which can then take a little while to settle down again. Poor digestion means that he is not able to absorb the nutrients so essential for his health. By constantly changing his food you may also be encouraging him to be a fussy eater.

**For further information or help with any health or feeding problems please write to us using the contact form on our web site [www.ardengrange.fr](http://www.ardengrange.fr).**