

How Much Does an 8 Weeks German Shepherd Dog Eat in a Day? A Feeding Guide



At 8 weeks, your puppy is in the “fear stage” where he will seem afraid of every new thing. In addition to being socialized to new things, people and other dogs, they also need proper nutrition to support their rapid growth during this stage.

As a large breed, you should feed your 8-week puppy food specially formulated for large breed dogs. This is because large-breed puppies have completely different nutritional requirements than ordinary puppies.

Similarly, **you should feed your 8-week shepherd between 1200-2400 calories daily. These should be spread over four meals a day.** You can choose to feed your puppy dry food, wet canned food, raw diet or homemade diet. This is totally a matter of preference under the advice of your vet. Feed your puppy 1 go 2 cups of kibble or 2.3 pounds of raw or homemade diet daily.

Let’s delve deep into what nutrients to feed your puppy, how much to feed them and other feeding guidelines to observe.

8 Weeks German Shepherd Puppy Feeding Guide

Unlike adult German Shepherds that can be fed twice daily, puppies need up to four meals daily. This is because they are growing rapidly and therefore need more nutrients to support their growth.

Here's a general guide on how to feed your Shepherd pup.

Feeding Amounts	Feeding Times	Mealtime Length
1-2 cups of kibble depending on weight	3 - 4 times a day	30 minutes

Do not be tempted to overfeed your young Shepherd, and do not underfeed either. Too much food could upset their growing tummy or make them gain too much weight quickly. Neither of these is good for your pup's health.

Every food comes with a feeding instruction to guide you on the quantity of food to give your pup; make a point of always reading it prior.

Nutrition Requirements for an 8 Weeks German Shepherd Puppy's Growth

At 8 weeks, a German Shepherd is experiencing rapid body growth while also learning to socialize, perfecting their biting skills and undergoing house training. To keep up with all these changes, your puppy will require a healthy diet.

Proper nutrition is essential to the health and development of an 8-week German Shepherd puppy. It can mean the difference between a happy, active, and healthy puppy and a sickly, moody puppy with a slow growth rate.

When choosing food for your puppy, ensure that it contains the main ingredients: fats, proteins, and digestible carbohydrates. It should also contain essential nutrients like vitamins and minerals.

- Proteins

The major component of your puppy's food immediately after weening should be proteins. Puppies need protein for building up their body tissue and for healthy skin and coat. Proteins should constitute 22-32% of their food composition. You can find proteins in beef, lamb, eggs, chicken, dairy, and salmon.

- Fats

Puppies require fats for the healthy development of their vision, brain, skin, and coat as well as to provide energy. The fats should, however, be limited to 10-25% to prevent obesity and orthopedic diseases resulting from being overweight. Fish oil, beef fat, chicken fat and eggs are all great sources of fats.

- Carbohydrates

At 8 weeks, German Shepherd puppies are very active and therefore need carbohydrates to fuel their energy. These nutrients can be found in sweet potatoes, whole oats, white rice, and potatoes, among other starchy foods. For optimal growth, ensure that their carbs intake is no more than 20% on a dry matter basis.

- Other Essential Nutrients

Your puppy's diet should also contain other essential nutrients like omega-3, phosphorus, and calcium. However, be sure to limit the intake of calcium. Too much of it has been found to cause [hip dysplasia](#) in large-breed dogs.

How Much Should an 8 Weeks German Shepherd Puppy Eat?

A German Shepherd puppy should consume between 900 calories per 10 pounds of body weight according to Nutrient Requirements of Cats and Dogs of the National Academy of Science Committee. This, however, also depends on their overall health conditions and activity level. You may need to feed them more or less to support their optimal growth.

Age

GSD Age	Number of feedings per day	Average calories per day	Total cups of kibbles per day
0 to 12 weeks	4	1200 – 2400 calories	1 - 2 cups
3 to 6-months	3	2000 – 2200 calories	1.5 - 2.5 cups
6 to 12 months	3	2700 – 3900 calories	2 - 3.5 cups
12 to 18 months	2	3300 – 4250 calories	3.5 - 4.5 cups

Activity

Some young Shepherds are already extremely active at 8 weeks, even more active than working adult dogs, while some are just getting the hang of things and may not be as active. If your pup is the latter, you may need to feed him less and adjust upwards if their activity levels increase.

Health

A sick puppy won't feed as much. This is pretty much expected. This means you'll significantly reduce their portions and, depending on what is ailing them, even withhold food for some hours.

For instance, when they have an upset tummy or when re-introducing food after a digestive fallout, you'd need to go slow on how much you feed them until they feel well completely.

Feeding Guide By Weight

Use this feeding guide by weight as a general guide.

Weight (pound)	Calories per day
10 lbs	600
20 lbs	1200

30 lbs	1500
40 lbs	1800
50 lbs	2100
60 lbs	2400

An 8-week GSD falls between 20 to 40 lbs which translates to 1200 to 1800 calories daily.

Please note that the above is just a guideline, and you may need to make adjustments based on the puppy's activity and health condition, as mentioned earlier.

***Tip**

Something to remember is that the caloric content of foods varies between brands. It is, therefore, important that you check the nutritional details on the package to confirm that the food contains the right amount of calories for your pups.

What to Feed An 8 Weeks German Shepherd Puppy?

Weaning a puppy comes with a lot of frustration for some dog owners. Figuring out what to feed them and how much to feed them seems to be the biggest headache. Let's go over the three categories of dog food to help you make an informed decision when choosing your puppy's food.

1. Feeding a German Shepherd Puppy Kibble

Kibble is meat, chicken or other proteins that have been ground, pulverized, and shaped to create the kibble. It is then sprayed with fats, vitamins, minerals, and, for some brands, live probiotics to make it healthier. Dry dog food is packed with lots of fibre which helps with gastrointestinal diseases. It is also good for teeth cleaning as it encourages chewing.

Pros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Affordable ● Easy to pre-portion ● Easy to store ● Contain more carbohydrates ● Does not go bad if left out 	Cons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower palatability ● May contain preservatives
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Suggested feeding amount per day: 1-1 1/2 cups of kibble, four times a day

Averaged cost per month: \$50 – \$75

Who is this for? Ideal for puppies of all ages and also great for overeaters. Kibbles are a good option for busy dog owners who can't spare time to make homemade food.

2. Feeding a German Shepherd Puppy Raw Diet

Raw diets for puppies are made purely from raw meats and raw ingredients. The diets are formulated to satisfy their primal instincts. According to vet Dr. Ian Billinghurst, a raw food diet greatly improves skin and coat health, builds up lean and strong muscles and has a lower risk of causing allergies.

Pros <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Much healthier• Contains no fillers, chemicals, or additives• Easier to digest than dry food• Contains only the necessary carbohydrates	Cons <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a higher risk of contamination• High risk of choking from bones• More expensive
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Suggested feeding amount per day: 2.5% to 3% of their current weight daily [according to Pethelpful](#)

Averaged cost per month: [\\$100 to \\$125 per month](#) depending on whether homemade or commercial

Who is this for? Dogs who want to lose or maintain their weight. This is a great choice for dog owners who prefer non-processed food for their puppies.

3. Feeding a German Shepherd Puppy a Homemade Diet

Homemade diet simply means dog food prepared from home. Puppies on homemade dog food have healthier guts, stronger immune systems, shinier coats, and fewer dental issues.

Pros <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You know exactly what's in your dog's food• Can be customized to suit puppy's taste• No fillers, chemicals and preservatives	Cons <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be quite expensive• Preparation is time-consuming• Poses a high risk of contamination
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Suggested feeding amount per day: [900 calories daily](#) per 10 lbs of weight

Averaged cost per month: [\\$3.52 per day for non-organic and \\$5.58 for organic](#)

Who is this for?: Picky eaters and puppies with sensitive stomachs. A great option for dog owners who prefer to handpick every ingredient that goes into their puppy's food.

Does My German Shepherd Puppy have the Right Weight?

Here's a growth chart to give you an idea of whether or not your puppy is within the right weight. These numbers are estimated to guide you on how much your puppy should weigh, so don't get worked up if your pup is slightly behind or ahead. That's expected. However, if the margins are big, you want to talk to your vet immediately for proper guidance.

German Shepherd Growth Chart

Age	Male Puppies	Female Puppies
4 weeks	5.5 - 9 lbs	4.5 - 8 lbs
8 - 16 weeks	16 - 40 lbs	11 - 35 lbs
16-30 weeks	35 - 49 lbs	35 - 44 lbs
6- 12 months	49 - 79 lbs	44 - 64 lbs
12-18 months	71 - 79 lbs	60 - 66 lbs
18- 24 months	71 - 84 lbs	60 - 70 lbs

Feeding Treats To A German Shepherd: Things to Consider

You should feed treats to a German Shepherd in moderation, they should not constitute more than 10% of their daily calorie intake. When choosing treats, ensure that they are specially formulated for large breed dogs, have great nutritional value, are low in fats and calories, and contain no colorings, preservatives, or chemicals.

Should You Give Your German Shepherd Supplements?

It depends on the quality of the dog food. If the food contains essential vitamins and minerals like omega-3, calcium, DHA or glucosamine, there is no need to give supplements. However, if the food doesn't contain these nutrients, we advise talking to your vet about giving supplements along with food to keep your dog healthy and strong. Exercise extra care when giving supplements as too much can create a nutrient imbalance which can be harmful to your pooch.

Water Intake for an 8 Weeks German Shepherd Puppy

You should increase your puppy's water intake as soon as you start weaning them. Puppies generally need about an ounce of water per pound of their body weight daily. However, on days when they are exceptionally active, you may give them more. Water is important in promoting bowel movement and other bodily functions.

Final Thoughts

Knowing how much to feed your 8-week puppy can be frustrating at first but once you figured it out, parenting your puppy becomes so much easier. When fed with the right amount of food, which should be according to their weight, your puppy will grow strong, healthy, and good-looking. They will be happy and active and bring the joy puppies are loved for.

Further Question

Why is my German Shepherd puppy always hungry?

Your puppy could be experiencing a growth spurt or is not getting enough calories to sustain its activity level.

What to do if my German Shepherd puppy won't eat?

You can try hand feeding them, making mealtime fun, introducing a nutritional high food, being consistent with their feeding schedule or making them more active to increase their appetite.

When should I switch my German Shepherd puppy to adult food?

German Shepherd puppies are ready to switch to adult food from 12 to 24 months. Be sure to make the transition gradual as you monitor their progress.