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Amino acids & protein.

Proteins are made up of amino acids, and dogs require **22 amino acids** to make necessary proteins.

A dog's body is able to make about half of these needed amino acids.

Know this! ... The rest must come from the **food** your dog get every day and then manufactured in her liver.

Your dog needs 22 amino acids, the building blocks of protein, 10 of which must be supplied by diet.

The other 12 are Amino acids are the things of which proteins are made. A healthy dog uses amino acids to make muscles, hair, skin and enzymes.

Because these amino acids are so important, **they are called essential amino acids**.

Well, even though the right combination of vegetable proteins can be made to satisfy a **dog's amino acid** needs, **animal protein naturally contains a more favorable mix of essential amino acids.**

So, don't choose a **dog** food simply because it “appears” to have a lot of protein on its label.

<https://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/canine-nutrition/amino-acids-dog-food-protein/>

I'm always amazed at the obsession most APBT owners have about dog food protein.



Especially since protein isn't even considered an **essential nutrient**.
Surprised?

Well, that's because it's the stuff protein is actually made of that's essential — not the protein itself.

You see, **amino acids** make up the basic building blocks of all protein.

Think of protein as a freight train with each car of that train being an amino acid.

And it's the kind of cars — and the order they're arranged — that makes each protein unique.

Ten 'life-or-death' nutrients.

Every dog has the natural ability to manufacture every amino acid he needs — except for 10 very special ones.

These ten essential amino acids **must come from the diet you offer.**

Otherwise, a dog could suffer serious health consequences — even death.

These ten essential amino acids include...

Arginine
Histidine
Isoleucine
Leucine
Lysine
Methionine
Phenylalanine
Threonine
Tryptophane
Valine

What happens when one is missing?

Proteins chains are manufactured by a dog's cells in a step-by-step, assembly line fashion — and if just one amino acid is lacking, **the entire process shuts down.**

This missing nutrient is known **as the limiting amino acid.**

Know this! ...That's because its absence "limits" the process from using any of the other available amino acids altogether.

So, every dished up dog food meal must contain all ten.

The bottom line.

Trying to judge a dog food by the amount of protein alone can and will be **misleading.**

Just because a commercial or homemade compiles dog food “dish” boasts a high protein percentage it does not mean it contains the *right* amino acids.

So, how can you improve the odds your dog food will meet your APBT’s amino acid needs?

Well, even though the right combination of vegetable proteins can be made to satisfy a dog’s amino acid needs, animal protein naturally contains a more favorable mix of essential amino acids.

So, don’t choose a dog food simply because it appears to have a lot of protein on its label.

Sure, a higher protein content usually only suggest you’ve come across a better dog food.

However, don’t forget to judge the source of that protein.

What is the role amino acids play in dog food?

BY FAMILYPET

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Amino acids are essential nutrients for all the dog’s tissues and organs during the dog’s phases of growth and development.

Proteins also play a main role in the dog’s immune system, and when consumed, they are burned as calories and can be stored as fat.

The wild dog ate a meat-based diet and consumed a high percentage of protein from its prey.

These proteins contained plenty of amino acids, because that is what builds the protein in the first place!

The domestic dog gets it from whatever you feed as dog food.

Most meat will contain all the necessary amino acids that your

dog needs, but a lot of plant protein is missing one or two of the essential amino acids.

While many use the words “amino acids” and “protein” interchangeably, that’s not entirely correct, because the protein source (such as plants or a low quality meat) may not contain all of the essential ones;

Therefore, it is misleading to judge a dog food simply by the protein count;

You must confirm that all ten essential amino acids are present, whether listed on the ingredient label or included in a high quality protein.

Of course, consult your veterinarian or a pet nutritional expert if you have concerns.