

	AFP National Canine
	Station Protocol K9 4/2015
	Food Standards for AFP Canine Labradors

1. Purpose

This Station Protocol defines the different types of food for AFP Canine Detection dogs and the NCOC standards for use.

2. Standards

AFP Canine feeds the Advance range of dog food. This range includes:

- Active
- Well Being
- Weight control
- Dermo care
- Puppy

Active

- A complete and balanced diet for highly active working dogs for all life stages.
- Has a high calorie and fat content so may not be suitable for older Labradors or dogs with sensitive stomachs that have difficulties digesting food.
- Fat content 22%, Protein 32%

Well Being

- A highly palatable and digestible, complete and balanced diet for all dog breeds.
- Fewer calories compared to Active food, suited to Labradors on average aged 3 years and above.
- Fat content 15%, Protein 26%

Weight control

- Formulated so a dog maintains its vitamin and mineral intake whilst consuming fewer calories, and
- Is designed as a complete and balanced diet for large breed dogs that are less active and prone to obesity.
- Fat content 9%, Protein 25%

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Dermo care

- A complete and balanced diet, designed to promote and maintain skin and coat health for dogs with dietary sensitivity.
- Can be used for dogs with sensitive stomachs that aren't able to digest the calories of active or well-being.
- Fat content 15%, Protein 26%

Puppy

- Can be used when a dog is particularly sensitive to all other forms of food. Contains colostrum which helps settle stomachs and improve faeces. Also helps to maintain a health gastro-intestinal tract.
- May also assist a dog to regain weight lost due to stress.
- Fat content 22%, Protein 34%

3. Choosing the correct Feed Type

When determining the correct food type and amount the following should be considered:

- What are the needs of the dog including energy requirements?
- What is the age of the dog?
- Does the dog have sensitivity to certain foods?
- Is the dog prone to bad stools?
- Does the dog look healthy and have a correct and suitable weight?

The Total Wellbeing diet is the standard and ideal food for the majority of our Labradors. It is well suited as a maintenance diet for our working dogs aged 3 and above. If a dog is highly active or energetic the active food would be more appropriate. If the dog has continual bad stools, the dermocarere would be necessary.

If a handler is unsure what his/her dog should be fed, or the amount, liaise with the kennel staff who will be able to assist.

Weight Control food should never be used in place of exercise to keep a dog thin. Working the dog or increasing the amount of exercise is the best option for maintaining a canine at its correct weight.

The approved physical fitness guide for handlers (**SPOKES > Operations > Aviation > National K9 > Admin > Training > Health and Fitness**) outlines how a handler's fitness program should incorporate fitness sessions with their dog and this will assist in weight control of their dog.

4. Exceptions

- Handler's Leave:** In the event that a handler is going on longer term leave, it may be necessary to substitute Advance Active food with the Weight Control food option to maintain the weight of a dog during the handler's absence.

Ideally, other handlers would exercise the absent handler's dog during this time. However, this may not always be possible.

There is the additional option of mixing Weight Control food with Advance Active food during this time.

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- ii. **Overweight Dog:** Weight Control Food can also be used to bring down the weight of an overweight dog gradually. There are dogs that are very food driven and reducing the Advance Active food to a bare minimum may cause stress for the dog.

Weight Control Food is an option under these circumstances, because the dog is receiving the same amount of food, but with fewer calories.

Once the dog is at the required weight level using Weight Control food, it can be returned to a Wellbeing or Active diet.

- iii. **Older Dog:** In the case of older dogs, Weight Control food may be a requirement as their metabolism may slow down. Again this is a very individual thing, as dogs will age differently depending on their level of activity and ability to run/exercise.

- iv. **Limited exercise space:** Where the canine facility has limited or no day run space, this may also impact on a dog's weight.

The Team Leader at National Canine Operations Centre will discuss your canine's diet with you and consider the options available.

5. Decision to Transfer to Weight Control food

If a dog needs to transfer to Weight Control food the handler's Team Leader will review this on an individual basis.

Options that will be considered:

- for a trial period, a dog may be fed Weight Control food for a period of months, and once the ideal weight is reached then it is returned to Advance Active
- regular and ongoing exercise needs to be included in this weight adjustment.

The aim is to keep our canines on Advance Wellbeing as this is the optimal diet for working dogs.

6. Ordering Weight Control Food

Orders can be placed via e-mail approved by your regional Team Leader and forwarded to the NCOC Team Leader Operations outlining the following:

- i. why the dog needs it (that is - the reason it is currently overweight)
- ii. how long you estimate the dog will need the food
- iii. the handler's overall plans for weight reduction including a physical fitness plan.

Kennel staff members have been advised not to provide Weight Control Food until it is ordered in the above manner, and approved by an NCOC Team Leader.

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7. Metadata

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