

1. Why You Should Consider a Multivitamin for Your Dog

Dogs, just like humans, need vitamins and minerals to have healthy and long lifespans. Vitamins are organic substances that are vital to life. A diet, to be well-balanced, should meet a dog's energy requirements and ability to properly digest and absorb essential vitamins and minerals. They also need to promote good immune system to guard against diseases. Most dogs who receive well-balanced meals throughout the day don't necessarily need dog multivitamins. According to Professor Tony Buffington, DVM, PhD, "Most people are doing it because they want to, not because it is necessary," when it comes to giving dogs vitamins (source: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/vitamins-dogs-need-healthy-lifestyle/>).

However, for dogs with poor nutrition and underlying complications like diabetes, multivitamins may be beneficial as they can help lower the risk of diseases and promote good health. Multivitamins may also be beneficial to pregnant dogs and older dogs with slower metabolisms.

2. What are the benefits of vitamins for dogs?

Almost any mammal needs vitamins and minerals to live, and dogs are no exception. According to Dr. Low Dog, multivitamins help dogs maintain healthy skin, coat, and bones, and promote proper function of body organs. Minerals like magnesium and zinc are heavily involved in dogs' endocrine systems. Vitamin A promotes good vision and cell function and can be found in most eyecare dog supplements. One of the B vitamins, thiamine, help in energy regulation and metabolism, while riboflavin or vitamin B12 accelerates enzyme function. Vitamin B6 is important especially to dogs who are at risk of diabetes, as they regulate blood sugar levels. However, these vitamins should be given to match the diet, according to veterinary nutritionist Susan Wynn, DVM. (source: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/vitamins-dogs-need-healthy-lifestyle/>).



By charlesdeluvio

2.1. Are there any risks associated with giving multivitamins to dogs?

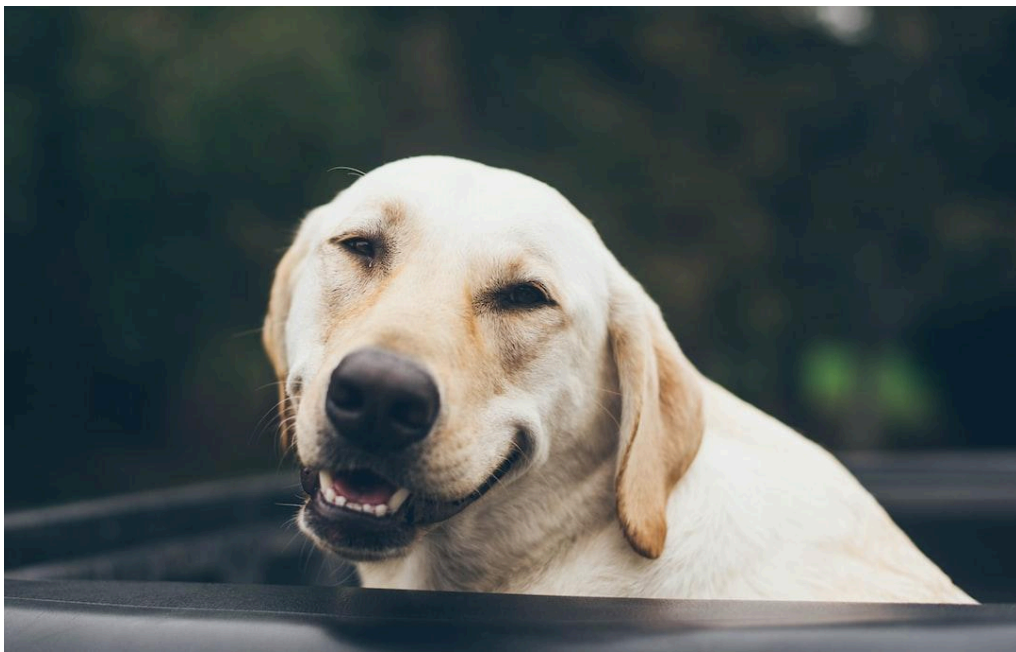
Generally, multivitamins pose no risks to a dog's health in the right doses. However, consumption of large quantities of calcium is especially dangerous to dogs as it damages their skeletal systems. Consumption of large quantities of vitamin A may dehydrate your dog and damage their blood vessels. It is better to talk to your veterinarian to know the proper vitamin doses for your dog. Dogs have different vitamin and mineral needs depending on their breeds. It is still important to consult with your veterinarian for the determination of the vitamins and minerals suited for your dog's diet and health.

3. What multivitamins should be given to a pregnant dog?

It is not uncommon for pregnant dogs to be picky eaters, and sometimes they refuse to eat because they have no appetite. Due to these reasons, pregnant dogs usually lack the proper nutrients to be healthy. Multivitamins are essential to pregnant dogs so they can supplement their dietary deficiencies due to their pregnancy. Vitamins like folic acid, B12, and B6 help maintain and develop the nervous system and cell production of fetuses.

4. What are the best multivitamin supplements for dogs?

Multivitamin supplements come in different forms like dog multivitamin powders and chew tablets. One of the best multivitamin supplements for dogs is *Dog MX Multivitamins* which are chew tablets that contain 21 key vitamins and Taurine to maintain a dog's overall health and vision. Another is *Natural Dog Multivitamins* which are chew tablets available in various flavors like duck and sweet potato. These chew tablets are dense in nutrients that help in energy regulation and digestion. One of the best multivitamins for diabetic dogs is *Nutralin* which are chew supplements that regulate blood sugar levels.



By Jonathan Daniels

5. Is it OK for dogs to take multivitamins?

Animal multivitamins are generally safe for consumption in the right doses. The same goes for dogs and dog multivitamins. However, it is not safe for dogs to take vitamins intended for human consumption due to the potency of vitamins and minerals in human vitamins. Dog multivitamins ensure the proper dose of vitamins and minerals that dogs require to maintain their health.

6. Do vets recommend vitamins for dogs?

It is not necessary for a dog to take vitamins when they have a well-balanced diet. Your vet may even recommend supplementing your dog's diet with specific fruits and vegetables, instead of vitamin supplements, according to Dr. Wynn (Source: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/vitamins-dogs-need-healthy-lifestyle/>).

However, according to most veterinarians, vitamins are necessary to dogs who have nutrient deficiency, are pregnant, or have complications.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, dog multivitamins are not necessary to dogs who have proper and well-balanced meals. Without a well-balanced diet, a dog's biological system may fail. Multivitamins are beneficial to dogs with complications like diabetes, pregnant dogs, and older dogs with slower metabolisms. However, multivitamins can also serve as a complement to a normal dog's daily meals to ensure that they maintain good health and are receiving the necessary nutrients that are not naturally synthesized by their bodies. It is highly recommended that you consult with your veterinarian first before buying dog multivitamins so they can determine the right vitamins and minerals that your dog needs. Dog multivitamins still depend on your dog's breed and diet to work properly.

7.1. Healthier skin and coat

Vitamins E, C, and B2 can help in the utilization of proteins for beautiful and healthy coats. They also help prevent oxidants from damaging the skin. They are also essential in cell function and metabolism. These vitamins help promote the healthiness of your dog's skin and coat.

7.2. Increased energy levels

B vitamins for dogs can help improve and regulate their energy levels. Vitamin B12 and thiamine are important to a dog's ability in absorbing food as they help reconstruct food into usable energy, helping your dog stay active throughout the day.

7.3. Improved overall health

Vitamins lower risk of diseases and promote longevity. Vitamin A which are commonly found in eyecare dog supplements help your dog maintain good vision. Folic acid is essential to protein synthesis. Your dog's overall health may be improved by incorporating multivitamins that match their diet so whatever deficiencies they have in their current diet may be supplemented by the necessary nutrients from dog multivitamins.