

## What puppy need

A host of new studies on the nutritional necessity of puppies has been finished at Mississippi State University, offering some obliging information on the subject.

The classify studies focused on how digestive enzymes vary before and after weaning, how foods are digested, and while and to what extent the intestines grow as the dog matures. While some of the results confirm what breeders already know, there were some interesting discoveries.

"The ability of very young dogs up to 3 weeks of age to digest composite diets is going to be very limited," says Professor of biology at University of California, Davis, on the dog day care California and he is a one of the conduct writers of the studies. "During that period of time, they will be dependent on mother's milk." Professor says puppies start developing the enzymes required to digest more complicated food between 3 and 5 weeks of age.

Interesting, the enzymes needed to digest protein "tended to go up a little bit earlier," says Professor, because "they do need to digest the casein and other proteins pose in milk." In fact, he says, based on the results, "diets at the time of weaning should be composed of extremely digestible proteins from animal tissues." He adds that "most veterinarians and breeders would recognize that you don't want to put a young puppy on something made largely out of corn or soy, you want a high -quality diet to get him going well."

Professor says they have not identified when dogs begin developing the enzymes needed to digest carbohydrates because those enzymes only increase after the dog begins eating food with carbohydrates in it, at about 4 weeks of age. "What we don't know is whether that increase was genetically programmed or if it was in response to having some starch in the intestine.