



## **Norfolk and Suffolk Animal Trust (NASAT)**

### **Dog Feeding and Nutrition Policy**

**Approved by:** Board of Trustees

**Date Approved:** 07.05.2026

**Next Review Due:** 07.05.2027

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#### **1. Purpose**

Norfolk and Suffolk Animal Trust (NASAT) are committed to ensuring all dogs in our care receive safe, appropriate, and nutritionally balanced food that supports their health and wellbeing.

This policy outlines the standards and procedures relating to feeding, treats, food storage, and acceptable food items for dogs housed in kennels, foster homes, transport settings, or temporary accommodation arranged by NASAT.

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#### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to:

- All trustees, staff, volunteers, and foster carers acting on behalf of NASAT
  - All dogs in the care of NASAT
  - All food, treats, and feeding arrangements provided within NASAT kennels, foster homes, and associated environments
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#### **3. Approved Food Standards**

##### **3.1 Main Diet**

NASAT primarily uses:

- Butcher's tinned dog food
- Dry dog food where suitable for the individual dog's needs, health, age, or digestive requirements

Food provided will be appropriate to the dog's condition, size, activity level, and any veterinary recommendations.

### **3.2 Surrendered Dogs**

Where a surrendered dog arrives with its existing food supply, NASAT may continue feeding that food initially to minimise stress and digestive upset.

Where appropriate, dogs may gradually be transitioned onto NASAT's preferred feeding arrangements, including Butcher's food and suitable dry food, through a managed weaning process.

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## **4. Donations and External Food**

### **4.1 Food Donations**

NASAT may accept donations of unopened dog food and treats. However:

- Donated food brands that are not routinely used by NASAT may be redistributed or donated onwards to other rescues, food banks, or welfare organisations where appropriate
- NASAT reserves the right not to use donated items if they are unsuitable, unlabelled, damaged, expired, opened, or inconsistent with this policy

### **4.2 Opened Food**

Opened dog food will not be accepted or used unless it belongs to a newly surrendered dog and has been provided directly by the owner at the point of intake.

Any food showing signs of spoilage, contamination, damage, or incorrect storage will be disposed of safely.

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## **5. Treats and Prohibited Items**

### **5.1 Approved Treats**

Treats may be used for:

- Training and enrichment
- Positive reinforcement
- Building confidence and trust
- Supporting welfare and behavioural work

All treats should be appropriate for the dog's size, health, and dietary needs.

### **5.2 Prohibited Treats and Foods**

The following items must not be given to dogs in NASAT care:

- Rawhide products
  - Pig's ears
  - Sugary snacks or confectionery
  - Any food known to be toxic or harmful to dogs
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## **6. Food Brought from Home**

Staff, volunteers, foster carers, and visitors must not bring food or treats from home to give to dogs unless specifically authorised by kennel management or required for veterinary or behavioural reasons.

This is to ensure:

- Consistency of diet
  - Management of allergies or sensitivities
  - Food safety standards
  - Accurate monitoring of intake and wellbeing
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## **7. Feeding Safety and Hygiene**

NASAT will ensure:

- Food is stored safely and hygienically
- Feeding bowls are cleaned regularly
- Fresh drinking water is always available
- Feeding routines are monitored appropriately
- Special dietary instructions are clearly communicated to all relevant carers or staff

Any concerns regarding appetite, digestion, allergies, or food-related illness must be reported promptly.

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## **8. Responsibilities**

All trustees, staff, volunteers, and foster carers are responsible for following this policy and ensuring dogs are fed safely, consistently, and appropriately.

No unauthorised foods, treats, supplements, or dietary changes should be introduced without approval where necessary.

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## **9. Monitoring and Review**

The Board of Trustees will review this policy annually, or sooner if required by changes in animal welfare guidance, veterinary advice, or operational needs.