



# DHA

## (DOCOSAHEXAENOIC ACID)

Technical Bulletin No. 46R, November 2003  
*Innovative Research in Dog and Cat Nutrition*

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### What Is DHA?

DHA or docosahexaenoic acid is an omega-3 fatty acid important for neural development of young mammals.

DHA is a major structural component of the brain as well as the most abundant fat in the brain. It plays a vital role in the development of the central nervous system and retinal function.

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### Sources Of DHA

Common dietary DHA sources include fish such as salmon, sardines, tuna and other seafood, eggs, and organ meat. In pet foods, sources of DHA include fish, fish meal, and fish oil.

Prior to weaning, puppies get DHA from their mothers. Mothers, both human and canine, transfer DHA from their body tissues to their offspring during pregnancy and lactation.

After weaning, puppies can obtain DHA for continuing neural development through a diet that includes fishmeal or fish oil.

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### Benefits Of DHA

- Iams studies have shown that bitches fed a diet with a 5:1 omega-6:omega-3 ratio (enriched in omega-3 fatty acids including DHA) produced larger litters with fewer stillbirths, when compared with bitches fed diets lower in omega-3 fatty acids (20:1 omega-6: omega-3 ratio).
- In addition, pups from bitches fed the diet with the 5:1 omega-6-omega-3 fatty acid ratio weighed more at weaning, compared with pups from bitches fed diets lower in omega-3 fatty acids.
- Supplementation of human infant formulas with DHA and other fatty acids has shown benefits for development of visual and cognitive function.

Since puppie's brains are still developing during the post-weaning period, they need a source of DHA to build healthy neural tissues.

- By 6 weeks of age, puppies have acquired only 70% of adult brain mass
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### Application

Eukanuba® puppy foods are formulated with fishmeal and other high-quality fat sources to

- Provide high amounts of DHA to support neural development.
  - Achieve an optimal 5:1 to 10:1 omega-6:omega-3 fatty acid ratio.
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