



# A Guide for How to Answer the Pet Behavior Questions:

We will be asking you about how your dog approached and ate the food. Here are some definitions to help guide your evaluation.



## We are asking that you watch your dog for the first 5 minutes or so after they start eating

(i.e., their first feeding bout) to answer some of these questions.



The weigh out and weigh back process is always the same in how much is offered and how long to feed is always 10 minutes.

### EXCITEMENT BEFORE THE MEAL: HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR DOG'S LEVEL OF EXCITEMENT PRIOR TO THE MEAL BEING OFFERED?

While you are preparing the meal, watch your dog's reaction and gauge how excited they are. Are they doing things like wagging their tail, jumping up or barking? Please judge this on how they show you they're excited.

### EAT IMMEDIATELY: DID YOUR DOG START EATING IMMEDIATELY ONCE THEY REACHED THE BOWL WITH FOOD?



Answer **YES** if:

- Your dog arrived at the bowl and immediately took mouthfuls of food or
- Your dog took a momentary sniff (<1 second) of the food before eating



Answer **NO** if:

- your dog arrived at the bowl and did not eat any of the food within 1 second of arrival

### EAGERNESS: HOW EAGER WAS YOUR DOG TO EAT THE PRODUCT?



**NOT EAGER:** Hesitant to eat the product, reluctant to eat



**VERY EAGER:** Keen to eat, keeps eating

### SIZE OF MOUTHFUL: OBSERVING WHEN YOUR DOG WAS EATING THE PRODUCT, WHAT SIZE MOUTHFULS DID THEY TAKE?

SMALL  
MOUTHFULS

MEDIUM  
MOUTHFULS

LARGE  
MOUTHFULS



At any time, please contact us if you have any questions about this information, the project overall, or if you have any trouble: [support@beforthright.com](mailto:support@beforthright.com)



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## CONFIDENCE: HOW CONFIDENT WAS YOUR DOG IN EATING THE FOOD?

TENTATIVE /  
HESITANT MOUTHFULS

MODERATE CONFIDENCE/  
STEADY CHEWING

CONFIDENT  
MOUTHFULS



A dog with low confidence might chew for a long time, eat reluctantly, be easily distracted or have low interest in the food.

A dog with high confidence might eat with high energy, put their head further into the bowl, be highly focused on the food and not distracted during the meal.


## PAUSING: HOW FREQUENTLY DID YOUR DOG PAUSE WHILE EATING THIS PRODUCT?


A **PAUSE** means the dog stops chewing for 1-2 seconds while it is still positioned at the bowl and engaged in eating.

- The head can lift from the bowl during the meal but must remain continually chewing, if not it would be considered a pause


*If your dog pauses after almost every mouthful of food, it is considered to be pausing frequently.*


## SPEED: HOW FAST DID YOUR DOG EAT THE PRODUCT?

 **VERY SLOW:** the dog has very slow jaw movements and takes very tentative mouthfuls of food

 **VERY FAST:** the dog demonstrates gulping behaviors and has rapid jaw movements while chewing their food

## FOCUS: HOW FOCUSED WAS YOUR DOG ON THE FOOD WHILE EATING?

 **NOT FOCUSED:** The dog will spend most of the time not eating the food, head raised, looking around the environment and only eating occasional 1-2 mouthfuls

 **COMPLETELY FOCUSED** the dog is not distracted in any way, with its head entirely in bowl, eating, during the observation period