

Delicate Care Super Premium Range

Veterinary Staff Information Sheet

Australian-made, Natural, GMO-free, and Sustainable

The Natural Balance Delicate Care Super Premium (SP) range is at the forefront of nutritional science and was formulated to meet AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials Inc.) specifications by **Professor emeritus Nick Costa**, who is one of Australia's leading companion animal nutritionists. SP is produced in Western Australia in a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) accredited plant that uses carefully chosen ingredients obtained through secure supply chains to ensure super premium quality and using only natural preservatives.

The SP range is nutritionally suitable for the majority of dogs, with three formulations in the range: High Energy, Regular Energy and Lite Energy.

The basic concepts underpinning the SP range are:

1. **Complete and Balanced**- complete range of nutrients, each balanced to AAFCO specifications
2. **Natural**- free of all artificial colourings and preservatives
3. **Palatable** - a food that dogs enjoy eating
4. **Novel Proteins**- Australian Lamb and Duck that are less allergenic
5. **Highly Digestible**- Rice, a highly digestible grain¹
6. **Shiny Coat & Healthy Skin**- an optimum ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 essential fatty acids
7. **Gut Health**- assisted by prebiotics, FOS and MOS
8. **Quality Stools**- firm, low residue stools with reduced odour (ideal for indoor dogs)
9. **Functional Foods** –enhance and support overall wellbeing
10. **Joint Health**- addressed by unique combination of ingredients

Australian Lamb and Duck have been chosen as the main protein sources, to reduce the risk of skin allergies and food intolerances. **Rice** provides a hypoallergenic and highly digestible base for the formulation¹. **Rice** also provides a readily available, cool source of energy for exercising dogs, especially during hot weather.

Adverse reactions to ingested food components can affect many systems and can produce signs involving the skin, gastrointestinal tract, respiratory tract and central nervous system, and these clinical signs are reviewed. Most basic food ingredients have the potential to induce an allergic response, although most reactions are caused by proteins. In particular, dogs can become sensitive to cow's milk, beef, fish or cereal².

Therefore, the SP Dog Foods are free of beef meal, chicken meal and wheat gluteins, which are the protein sources that are often associated with food allergies and intolerances². Moreover, the lamb and duck meals are obtained from Australian supply chains, where we have ensured that a natural antioxidant (NaturolTM) be incorporated in each production step to ensure that the natural aspect of these super premium foods is maintained.

Omega MagicTM Essential Oil Blend: This combination of essential fatty acids has been incorporated into the SP range to provide an omega-6 : omega-3 essential fatty acid ratio that is close to 5.0:1.0, thereby supporting the action of anti-inflammatory eicosanoids. The omega-6 essential fatty acids have been obtained from sunflower oil (not corn oil) to ensure the appropriate concentration of the AAFCO-specified essential fatty



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acid linoleic acid (C18:2 n-6). The omega-3 fatty acids have been obtained from canola oil (local WA grown & GMO-free) for linolenic acid (C18:3 n-3) and from fish oil from deep sea sources off the Tasmanian coast that has been selected for its content of very long chain omega-3 fatty acids that are rich in eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA; C20:5 n-3) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA; C22:6 n-3). These omega fatty acids have metabolic functions including: cell membrane fluidity, inflammation/anti-inflammation, hormone synthesis and support of a healthy skin. Omega-3 fatty acids such as EPA (C20:5 n-3) can modulate/decrease the inflammatory response of the omega-6 fatty acid, arachidonic acid (C20:4 n-6). Docosahexaenoic acid (C22:6 n-3) plays an important role in neural development and cognitive capacity in young dogs, and in amelioration of behavioural problems in older dogs³.

Focus on Functional Foods contained in SP range:

β-glucans: Two sources of β-glucans, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* that provides manno-oligosaccharides (MOS) which has been shown to have anti-allergenic effects that have been attributed to boosting cellular immunity⁴. Super Oat Bran is also included as a rich source of β-glucans which are associated with many beneficial effects such as easy passing of stools and improved regulation of blood glucose and lipids⁵.

L-Carnitine: is included to support oxidation of long chain fatty acids for energy production. The specific benefits vary for different life stages, such as young puppies⁶, older dogs, exercising and show dogs. The NSBP does not contain the inactive D-isomers of carnitine which are not biologically effective.

Prebiotics: fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS) that promote 'friendly' *Bifidobacteria* in lower gut⁷ and **manno-oligosaccharides (MOS)**, both of which aid the immune function of the gut⁴.

Yucca schidigera: A natural succulent extract that assists in reducing body and faecal odours. Yucca extract also has anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritis effects.⁸

Joint Health

The SP range assists in the support of healthy joints with a unique combination of ingredients: hydrolysed gelatine, fish oils and β-glucans. Hydrolysed gelatine (non-bovine) provides the ideal foundation of amino acids such as proline and hydroxyproline for joint proteins such as collagen, which are important for joint structure and mobility. The β-glucans are inflammatory through boosting cellular immunity and provide building blocks such as mannose for joint lubricants needed to maintain healthy joints. Moreover, SP range of dog foods contains an optimized ratio of Omega 6 & 3 essential fatty acids, especially as omega-3 fatty acids, EPA and DHA as described earlier, vitamins, chelated minerals and probiotics each of which supports joint function. These ingredients are present in **SP Lite** which assists joint function by helping to reduce weight, an important part of increasing mobility in overweight dogs.

Vitamins and Minerals

All of the SP range contains an optimised mix of vitamins and minerals with one third of the trace minerals presented as organic chelates to increase bioavailability and decrease the potential impact of competition at



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intestinal cell wall transporters. Calcium concentrations are optimized for skeletal development in puppies so that **no further supplementation with calcium is required even for large breeds of dogs.**

Balance of ingredients

Super Oat Bran: The primary fibre source is super oat bran, which offers a good balance between soluble and insoluble fibre and is also a rich source of **β-glucans**, which are classified as soluble fibre, that form viscous solutions associated with many beneficial effects such as easy passing of stools⁵.

Corn Gluten Meal: As incorporated into the SP range, corn gluten meal provides a valuable source of specific amino acids that are not only important to a balanced diet, but also assist with acidification of urine which may be beneficial for dogs prone to struvite formation.

Tallow: Tallow is sourced from the human food chain and has been centrifuged to ensure its purity. Therefore, our tallow is of super premium quality and palatability providing necessary dietary fat used as an important source of energy for dogs at different life stages.

Poultry Digest: Poultry digest is made by acid hydrolysis of poultry proteins to achieve a flavour profile that is highly appealing to dogs. The acid hydrolysis process significantly reduces the allergenic properties of poultry proteins by destroying the tertiary structure of proteins and disrupting their polypeptide sequence.

Different focus of Natural Balance High, Regular and Lite:

Nutritional Analysis	High	Regular	Lite
Protein (%min)	26	24	22
Fat (%min)	12	11	7
Fibre (%max)	2.5	3	5
Ash (%max)	7	7	6
Moisture (%max)	8	8	8
CA:P Ratio	1.3-1.6:1.0	1.3-1.6:1.0	1.1-1.5:1.0
Metabolisable Energy	340kcal/100gms	320kcal/100gms	295kcal/100gms

SP High Energy contains higher concentrations of protein and energy to support the extra demands for growth and development in puppies and young dogs including large breeds, the very large nutrient demands of pregnant and especially nursing dogs and finally for energy demands during exercise in working dogs and show dogs. **SP High Energy** optimized concentrations of L-carnitine essential in puppies transitioning from glucose *in utero* to fatty acids as the predominant energy source in milk and the post-weaning diet. Carnitine-dependent fatty acid oxidation also assists in providing the essential base load energy supply for working dogs.

SP Regular Energy is designed to meet the AAFCO requirements for protein and energy for adult dogs. **SP Regular Energy** is formulated to ensure both super premium quality of nutrition that can sustain health and



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well-being of adult dogs over a lifetime. **SP Regular Energy** will help to maintain your companion in an active disposition even into older life stages.

SP Lite Energy contains a lower but still AAFCO-adequate percentage of crude fat (min 7%) along with an increased amount of fibre in the form of super oat bran (human grade) to give an optimal soluble: insoluble fibre ratio for both weight loss and weight control in dogs. Importantly in dogs trying to lose weight, oat bran lowers the postprandial glucose and insulin concentrations⁹. SP Lite Energy also contains L-carnitine to catalyse the oxidation of fats from adipose tissue stores. In older dogs, fatty digestion and absorption can decrease in efficiency so L-carnitine is important in ensuring efficient capture of energy from fatty acids in older dogs. In younger dogs that have difficulty either controlling their appetite or are a breed of dog with a propensity to put on weight easily, **SP Lite Energy** is uniquely formulated to assist with weight loss and more importantly, weight control under these circumstances.

The SP range is formulated from the highest quality ingredients while remaining mindful of their environmental footprint. Every care is taken to ensure the sustainability of ingredient selection and manufacturing process to achieve a low carbon footprint using ingredients obtained from Australian sources of low food miles whenever possible.

References:

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