



Veterinary Hospital

How to Switch Pet Foods

When feeding your pet a new food, it is best to introduce it slowly. If you feed too much of the new food too quickly, your pet could experience food refusal and possibly some degree of stomach upset, diarrhea, vomiting, excess gas, or constipation. The best method for transitioning from an old, familiar food to a new food is to gradually mix an increasing amount of the new product with the old over a period of time until the animal is receiving only the new product. This is very important so that you don't disrupt your pet's digestive balance.

We recommend at least a 7-day transition before you begin feeding the new food exclusively. This allows your pet's digestive system to smoothly adapt to the new food. On the 7th day, you can feed the new food exclusively.

Transition Schedule							
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Old Diet	75%	75%	50%	50%	25%	25%	----
New Diet	25%	25%	50%	50%	75%	75%	100%

If at any time during the transition your pet develops any digestive upsets, slow the rate at which you are switching to the new diet. In the rare event that your pet develops more serious signs of distress, withhold all food and call your veterinarian. Many times this problem will be solved by withholding all food for 12 hours, then making a slower transition starting with the pet's old food again. Because vomiting could be caused by another factor, your veterinarian should always be consulted. Note: If your pet refuses to eat, do not go for more than 24 hours without consulting your veterinarian.

Helpful Hints:

- * Offer a few kibbles or bites of canned food by hand to your pet. Food seems more "special" when offered with affection.
- * Lightly moisten kibbles or add a little warm water to canned food to enhance aroma and texture.
- * Some pets with conditions such as kidney disease may take longer than normal to transition to a new food, consult with your veterinarian to discuss a two week transition to a new formula.