



**Murray Bridge
Vet Clinic**

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Introducing New Food

A new pet food should always be introduced gradually, even if your pet appears to like the new food. This will help reduce the chance of a stomach upset following a food change.

Changes to diet affect different animals in different ways, so it is important to manage the change carefully. Gradually introduce the food over 5 to 7 days. Introduce approximately 25% of the new food each day, mixed in with the old food. Increase the proportions by 25% each day until you reach the full amount of the new food. If you are using canned food, warm the new food to body temperature, but no hotter. Most animals will prefer canned food slightly warm as it can improve the smell and the feel in the mouth. Avoid feeding chilled foods. You can change the texture of canned food by adding a small amount of warm water to soften it and make it easier to mix the old and new food types together. Keep a bowl of clean fresh water available at all times.

You might like to try some of the following suggestions to ease the transition between foods:

Appetite can be affected by disease, so speak to your vet to see whether there is any special feeding advice for your pet. Follow any advice given by your Veterinarian.

In general, dogs and cats are creatures of habit. They may require some help changing foods, especially if they are used to having just a single type of food. Another example would be an animal that is used to a varied diet, but may need to have a much more controlled diet due to allergies, kidney disease or needing to lose weight.

Try adding warm water to dry food to soften it. Some dogs do prefer their dry food with water added. Most cats will not like water added to dry food.

Don't be tempted to add human food to the new diet. Most animals will end up eating the human food instead and this can develop into a bad habit long term.

For very fussy or finicky eaters, try hand feeding the new food as a treat. This will reinforce the positive bond between the owner, pet and the new food.

No animal should be starved whilst trying to introduce a new food.

If you are really struggling to change your pet's food, speak to your veterinary surgeon or nurse to see if they have any extra behaviour tips to help you.

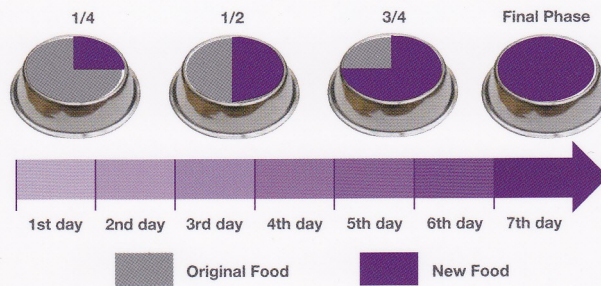
Please turn over for some other handy hints...



Changing Your Pet's Diet?

Tips For Successful Food Transition

A 7 day transition period ensures that your pet's digestive system has time to adapt to the new food. It also encourages acceptance of the new food, which is especially important in fussy pets.



Important Information Regarding Food Storage

- After each use, the bag should be closed carefully. Keep the food in the original packaging (closed with a peg) and stored in an airtight container.
- Select a bag size that is appropriate to your cat or dog's size. Ask for advice!
- Wet food must be refrigerated after opening and covered. The entire contents should be used within 48 hours after opening.

Handy Hints

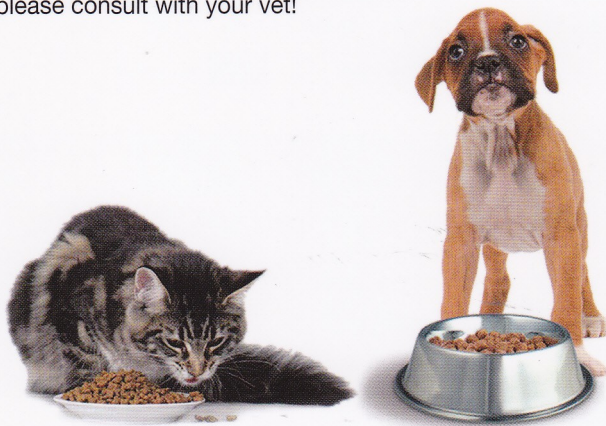
Introduce the new diet to your pet in a comfortable and stress free environment. You can also try some of the following:

Cats

- Place a small amount of wet food on your cat's mouth or paws.
- Offer the new diet in small amounts.
- If your cat refuses to eat please consult with your vet!

Dogs

- Handfed food often seems more attractive to dogs.
- Moisten the kibbles slightly with warm water.
- Make meal time positive!



If you have any further questions please make an appointment with your Veterinarian or ask one of our friendly staff members.