

Transitioning to a New Food

As more and more pet lovers are learning about healthier foods, many are switching to more nutritious brands made with less processed ingredients. However, a pet's digestive system may have grown accustomed to a certain food formula and the "good bacteria" in their intestines may not be ready to support higher levels of meat and vegetables overnight. Your pet should be transitioned to a new food over a ten day or longer period. Switching slowly will allow the "good bacteria" to grow stronger and more numerous to break down the new nutrients. If change occurs too quickly, the digestive system may react negatively causing vomiting or diarrhea. We suggest the following food mix to help your pet easily transition to the new food.

3 days of 3/4 old food & 1/4 new food

4 days of 1/2 old food & 1/2 new food

3 days of 3/4 new food & 1/4 old food

A canned pumpkin food for dogs can help ease in the transition from one food to another.



Nutrition Basics

Proteins contain amino acids which are used for tissue and muscle development and repair as well as maintaining a healthy immune system.

Fats are necessary for proper organ development and function as well as healthy skin and coat.

Carbohydrates are used as a primary energy source

Fiber helps maintain digestive regularity

Water is often thought of as the most important nutrient of all and is used in just about every function in the body.

Dog & Cat

Evaluating Pet Foods




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Evaluating Pet Foods Ingredient Panels

To best evaluate the ingredients listed in the food panel on the label you need to ask three questions:
What? Where? How Many?

◆ **What?**

How pure (less processed) is the ingredient.

- **Look for names species** meats, fats or meals (ex., chicken, turkey, salmon, chicken meal, etc.).
- **Try to avoid un-named species** meats, fats or meals (ex., meat and bone meal, poultry fat, fish meal, etc.).
- **Look for whole complex carbohydrates** verses grain fractions (Brown rice, barley, etc., instead of brewer's rice ,ground corn, etc.).
- **Avoid grains often associated with allergies** such as corn, wheat ,and soy.

◆ **Where?**

How close to the top of the ingredient list does this ingredient appear.

- To be a meat based product, the **meats MUST be in the first ingredients** in the diet. An example ingredient panel list would be: Turkey, Chicken, Chicken Meal, Pearled Barley, Oatmeal, etc.
- Ingredients are **listed in order of their weight**. The farther down the list the smaller the percent of ingredients.

◆ **How Many?**

Count the number of similar ingredients on the list.

- **Look for several grains or other carbohydrates** listed after one or two protein sources. Even though the first ingredients listed are proteins several carbohydrates can reduce the overall percentage of meat in the food
- To truly be a **meat based diet the first three out of five ingredients should be meats**. The exceptions to this would be a single source protein diets or limited ingredients diets

This information is not meant to substitute for proper veterinary care. Pet owners should always speak with and follow the instructions provided by their veterinarian. This information has been provided as a general guide for supporting better health.

Which Food Might Be Best For My Pet?

◆ **Grain Free Diets**

Grain free diets were created to be closer to the diets that dogs and cats ate in the wild. Dogs and cats did not eat large amounts of carbohydrates. Their diets consisted mostly of meat and plant matter that was partially digested by their prey. The digestive tracts of dogs and cats are short and highly acidic to easily break down meats. Grain free diets can provide many benefits to pets: reduced allergies reduction of weight related diseases, better muscle mass, higher immunities, and better palatability.

◆ **Limited Ingredient Diets**

Successfully managing a pet's food allergies requires the identification of the ingredient (s) that cause an allergic reaction and the removal of the ingredient (s) from the diet. Many veterinarians suggest using the process of elimination to determine the allergen. Limited ingredient diets help achieve this by offering one meat protein source and limited carbohydrates. By reducing the number of ingredients, you reduce the likelihood of an allergic response. Limited ingredient diets also help pets with sensitive stomachs, and can help pets from rescues in making the switch to better quality diets because they are less taxing on the digestive tract.

◆ **Senior Care**

As your pet ages there can be some health changes that may require a little extra care to make sure your pet remains healthy. One of the most common concerns includes joint problems and arthritis. Lower activity levels reduce both the caloric and fat needs. Senior care diets are formulated specifically for older pets to help them live a long and more comfortable life.

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◆ **Skin & Coat Concerns**

Skin and coat problems come in a variety of forms and may cause your pet to experience itchy, red, irritated skin that can result in hair loss, "hot spots", dull, flaky or greasy coats. These problems are often caused by environmental irritations, nutritional deficiencies, parasites, allergies, or poor grooming. You can help your pet's coat by feeding a meat-based high quality ingredient diet.

Wheat, corn, soy and grains are some ingredients that can trigger allergic responses and should be removed if your pet has a poor coat.

◆ **Underweight Pets**

If a pet is underweight for too long, they may have less energy and other health issues can develop. Since an underweight condition can have a myriad of causes you need to monitor your pet and work closely with your veterinarian. Often feeding a more palatable food, higher in protein and fat can help increase your pet's weight.

◆ **Overweight Pets**

Excess weight can lead to many health problems including diabetes, increased risk of cancer, damage to the joints, bones or ligaments, decreases stamina, heat intolerance, and a reduced quality and length of life. A healthy solution is more exercise and a food higher in protein and lower in carbohydrates and fats. Feeding twice a day verses once allows your pet's metabolism to be at its peak burning rate all day. We strongly discourage "free feeding" any pet that is overweight.

◆ **Puppies**

Puppies grow quickly which mean they have higher demand for quality proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals and calories than adult dogs. Puppy foods are formulated to meet these higher demands. Large breed puppy foods are formulated with less calcium and phosphorus to help promote slower, healthier and stronger bone and joint growth. Small & medium breed dogs are considered puppies for 1 year, larger breeds are generally considered to be puppies for up to 2 years.

What a rewarding experience it is to have a dog or cat become a member of the family! They will be generous with their love and devotion , but will depend on you for physical needs and happiness.

Pet Depot recommends the following products for good health and proper care.

Basic needs for a Dog

- ☐ **Premium Food** Quality ingredients, total nutrition
- ☐ **Food/Water Dishes** Weighted dishes prevent spilling
- ☐ **Collar/Leash** For walking & training
- ☐ **Dog Crate/Cage** Aids in housebreaking
- ☐ **Housebreaking Pads** Makes house breaking easier
- ☐ **Odor/Stain Remover** For safe & effective clean up
- ☐ **Pet Bed/Cushion** Comfort & security
- ☐ **Pet Carrier** Keeps pet safe & secure when traveling
- ☐ **Shampoo** For a clean, healthier coat
- ☐ **Flea/Tick products** For flea/tick prevention
- ☐ **ID tag** For protection & safety
- ☐ **Toys** For entertainment & fun
- ☐ **Chew Toys** For healthy teeth & gums
- ☐ **Treats** A nutritional reward, great for training
- ☐ **Brush/Comb** Helps remove loose hair & tangles

Basic needs for a Cat

- ☐ **Premium Food** Quality ingredients, total nutrition, no supplements or extra vitamins needed
- ☐ **Food/Water Dishes** Shallow dishes
- ☐ **Litter Box** A covered box will help keep litter inside
- ☐ **Litter** Premium Litter
- ☐ **Collar/ID Tag** For protection & safety
- ☐ **Pet Carrier** For safe travels
- ☐ **Flea/Tick products** For Flea/Tick prevention
- ☐ **Brush/Comb** Helps remove loose hair
- ☐ **Toys** For entertainment & fun
- ☐ **Cat Furniture** For fun exercise & scratching

Dog & Cat

Basic Care Guide




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Responsible Pet Owners:

- Ensure that their dogs and cats are licensed and outfitted with visible identification at all times
- Spay or neuter their dog and cat to improve the health and behavior of the animal and to prevent their animal from adding to the problem of pet over-population
- Clean up after their pets and dispose of the waste in a sanitary manner
- Keep their dogs on leashes at all times when outside the home
- Help cats stay safe and live longer by keeping them indoors and away from situations where they could become nuisances
- Maintain an active flea and tick control program

General Care

Nutrition:

To thrive and live long healthy lives, pets need the best nutrition possible. Pet Depot recommends feeding premium pet foods. Premium pet foods are made with high quality ingredients that are carefully formulated to provide your pet with a totally balanced diet. Premium pet foods have all the vitamins, minerals, oils, fatty acids, proteins and carbohydrates your pet will need to be healthy. There is no need to add vitamins or supplements to your pet's diet unless your pet has special needs. Because premium pet foods contain quality ingredients, your pet gets more nutrition from a smaller amount of food. This means smaller, firmer stool and less clean up for you.

House Training:

Using a dog crate/cage for house training is the easiest method. Confine the puppy to the crate, only letting him out of the crate to go outside or when he will have supervision. Usually a puppy will not urinate or defecate where he sleeps. A good routine to follow is to take the puppy outside every two or three hours, taking him to the same spot each time. Take your puppy outside as soon as you get up in the morning and then the last thing you do before bedtime.

Grooming:

Use a good brush to remove loose hair from your pet. Do not allow your pet's hair to become matted. This can be painful to your pet by pulling the skin tight as the hair mats. Keeping your pet's nails trimmed is also a part of good grooming. Trimming your pet's nails can be a challenge to do by yourself. Many pets do not like their paws touched. It is best to have someone help restrain your pet to trim their nails or have them trimmed by your pet's groomer or veterinarian.

Flea Control

In just 30 days, ten fleas can multiply to more than 250,000 fleas. An adult female flea lays up to 600 eggs in her lifetime. For every single adult flea, there can be hundreds of fleas at other stages of the flea cycle (see illustration). Controlling these pests is not an easy task. The pet, the home, and the yard must all be treated together to successfully control fleas.

Before starting the flea & tick control program, carefully read and follow all the directions on the product package.

Step 1...Relief

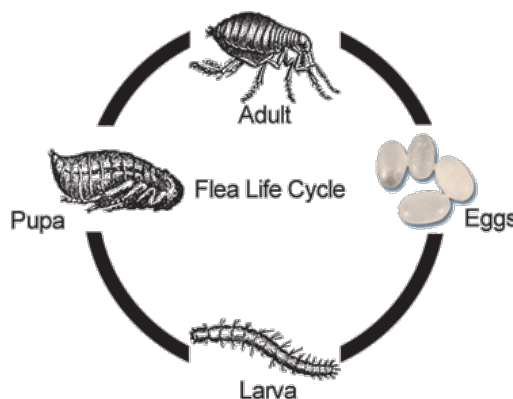
Shampoos, powders, sponge-ons (flea dip) and spray products are specifically designed to provide instant relief for pets by quickly eliminating the source of the pets' suffering.

Step 2...Maintenance

Flea and tick collars or spot-ons provide an on-going protective barrier against fleas and ticks before they can start a problem. A flea and tick collar will provide continuous killing action, even when wet. A spot-on provides fast killing action plus residual killing action for approximately one month.

Step 3...Control

Treatment of the home is a crucial step in flea & tick control. The home can be controlled with foggers and/or carpet and upholstery powder or spray. Do not forget to spray under tables and furniture.



Obedience Training Basics

Training your puppy or dog takes time, patience and repetition. The following five points can help make the process easier and more rewarding for both you and your pet.

Point #1...Be consistent

Nothing confuses your dog or makes the training process more difficult than inconsistency. You must be consistent in your actions and in your words. If you do not want your dog on the couch, then he should never be allowed on the couch. Dogs cannot understand "sometimes". Make sure everyone in the family is using the same word or phrase for the same behavior. Confusion will quickly set in if you use "sit" and your spouse uses "down".

Point #2...Use praise

We often focus our attention on correcting behavior and forget to say anything when things are going well. Nothing reinforces good behavior like praise. Let your dog know he did well with a "good boy", a pat on the head or shoulder, or small treat.

Point #3...Keep sessions short

Frequent but short training sessions yield the most success. After 10-15 minutes most dogs start to become distracted. If your dog is not focused both of you will end up frustrated. The goal is to build a trusting and loving relationship with your pet. Develop a schedule and stick to it. Training 10 minutes daily is better than 60 minutes once a week.

Point #4...No punishment

There is no room for any type of punishment when training your pet. You need to praise correct behaviors and not over react to incorrect behaviors. We are not suggesting you ignore bad behavior. We are recommending a measured response from you. The tone of your voice with a firm "No" will convey your displeasure with the behavior.

Point #5...End on a positive note

You want to end each and every session positively. Now is the time for some extended praise. Let your dog know how happy you are with him both verbal praise and physical contact. If the session has not gone well chose a command that your dog has already mastered and executes without fail. Use that command at the end of the session. Again, the point is to end on an upbeat note. The helps keep you and your dog working together as a team.

Thank you,
The staff at

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