

Feeding Your New Dog

CURRENT DIET: _____

Switching your dog to a new diet right away could cause him/her to have an upset tummy! During this transitional period of shelter to home life, it is important to move your adopted dog to new food slowly, by mixing it for about a week's time before completely switching it over.

The best technique is to gradually mix the new dog food with the existing diet and slowly increase the percentage of the new food over time. A slow dietary transition will help the dog's digestive system adjust to the new food gradually without causing indigestion, vomiting, diarrhea or other gastrointestinal upset.

If you need to transition your dog onto a new diet, use the following chart to help you:

Day 1 and 2: Mix $\frac{1}{4}$ of the new diet and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the current diet.

Day 3 and 4: Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ of the new diet and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the current diet.

Day 5 and 6: Mix $\frac{3}{4}$ of the new diet and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the current diet.

Day 7: Full amount of the new diet!

**Progress only if your dog continues to have regular bowel movements! If s/he stops eating or has diarrhea or vomit, move back a step & progress more slowly with the diet change. See your vet if s/he doesn't eat for more than 2 days.*



Nutrition is important! Before selecting a diet be sure to look at the ingredient list, paying particular attention to the first three ingredients- they should be meat or meat meal (not a by-product).

No matter what you feed your dog, do it in moderation. Feed equal measured amounts twice daily (three times for puppies) to keep your dog from overeating, unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian. Overweight dogs are susceptible to developing diabetes, joint and mobility problems, as well as the inability to groom themselves normally. Help your dog stay healthy through a high quality diet and lots of exercise!