

DIET CHANGE

Changing Your Pets Diet the Safe Way



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Provided by the Royal Animal Health University

Changing your pet's diet can be a bit of an adjustment for their digestive system. To avoid any unwanted changes to the way their GI tract performs, follow our guide below.

Remember every dog is different and may require more or less attention during the change. Typically we recommend transitioning over a 10-14 day period, but if your dog begins to develop soft stool (or other GI related issues) this change may have to happen a bit more slowly. To slow down the transition, go back to the day before the symptoms began. Remain at that point of the transition for an additional 1-2 days (be sure the symptoms have resolved) before proceeding as planned. If your dog continues to have issues, you may consider adding in pumpkin or psyllium for fiber, or a probiotic to help maintain healthy GI flora (you can find more information about this below). Another way to help the transition to raw food is to lightly cook the food. To cook: Place the food in a 225 degree (fahrenheit) oven until it's color changes (about 10-15 minutes). Once your dog is 100% transitioned to the food, you may stop cooking the food and feed it to your pet raw.

When changing foods, be sure to do it **SLOWLY**-over about 10 to 14 days, a little at a time. Each day increase the new food as you are taking away the old food.

Day 1:	90% old food	10% new food	Day 6:	40% old food	60% new food
Day 2:	80% old food	20% new food	Day 7:	30% old food	70% new food
Day 3:	70% old food	30% new food	Day 8:	20% old food	80% new food
Day 4:	60% old food	40% new food	Day 9:	10% old food	90% new food
Day 5:	50% old food	50% new food	Day 10:		100% new food

During food changes you can help the GI tract adjust its normal bacteria by giving a dairy-free lactobacillus/acidophilus-type supplement (you can get others at pharmacies & natural grocers).

You can also keep stool firm by using **unsweetened canned pumpkin** and/or gloopy (add extra water during cooking) **over-cooked white rice** (not minute rice) to the food (about 1 Tblsp per 30#).

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