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PET FOOD SWITCHEROO

Has your vet recommended a diet change for your plump pup? Or, maybe you just realized that you're feeding your "adult" cat food that's specifically formulated for kittens? Regardless of the reasoning, all pet owners must perform the pet food switcheroo at some point to help their furry friends stay healthy.

Like most picky eaters, cats and dogs can be reluctant to try unfamiliar foods, which is why they'll need some assistance from you. With a little patience and some planning, you can convince your pet to eat (and even enjoy) new pet food in just 11 days! Here's how.

Before You Begin

- Familiarize your pet with new food by offering it to them as "treats." If they chew and consume some of the pieces, they'll be more likely to eat these "treats" when offered as a meal.
- Accompany every meal with a bowl of fresh water. This will help your pet stay hydrated while stimulating their appetite.

Day 1-3

Introduce new food to your pet in small amounts. So, for the first three days, your pet's meals should contain 25% of the new food and 75% of their old food. To mask the different tastes and textures, mix the two varieties together with a spoon before serving. Monitor your pet throughout these first three days, noting any sudden illnesses or gastronomical issues (vomiting, constipation or diarrhea).

* IMPORTANT:

If your pet stops eating or develops serious gastronomical distress at any point during this food transition process, do not feed your pet anymore of the new food. Call your veterinarian for further instruction.

Day 4-6

If your first three days are successful, increase the food ratio. This time, try a 50/50 blend of the new and old food. Since your pet will be more receptive to this new food formula, heavy mixing is no longer necessary.

Day 7-10

You're almost there! Continue to cut back your pet's old food and substitute it with more of the new food. For the next three days, your pet's dinner bowl should contain 75% of the new food and 25% of their old food.

Day 11

Start serving your pet only the new food on Day 11. If your pet exhibits no signs of immediate discomfort, you can celebrate a job well done! That's right; you have successfully transitioned your faithful furbaby's food preference in less than two weeks!