## Tips and Timelines for • Transitioning Your Pet to a New Food



Take it slowly when transitioning your pet to a new food! A sudden switch may cause digestive upset and food aversion — especially in cats.

Dogs should transition to a new food over seven days.



Initially replace 25% of the old food with the new food. Continue to gradually increase the proportion of the new food offered based on your pet's acceptance.

Cats may need up to 40 days to transition, so be patient.



Initially replace 25% of the old food with the new food. Continue to gradually increase the proportion of the new food offered based on your pet's acceptance.

## Keep these points in mind:

- Cats can be sensitive to the physical form, odor, and taste of foods.
- Cats accustomed to a specific texture or type of food (moist, dry, or semi-moist) may refuse foods with a different texture, so a longer transition timeline may be necessary (one to two months).
- Food temperature also influences food acceptance by cats. Cats do not accept food served at temperature extremes (too cold, too warm). They tend to prefer food when it's near body temperature.
- Cats with nausea may develop a learned aversion to certain foods. Often this happens when cats eat before an episode of nausea or vomiting. These aversions can

last up to 40 days in cats, so it's best to avoid accidentally causing aversions by feeding a desired long-term food to a cat who is nauseous.

Cats must eat adequate calories daily. Be patient and continue the transition until the cat is eating the new food.

If needed, easy, affordable flavor enhancers include:

- ✓ A small amount of canned pet food as a topper
- ✓ Low-salt flavored broth
  - · For dogs: low-salt chicken or beef broth
  - · For cats: low-salt tuna, clam, or chicken broth

If your pet needs additional encouragement flavor-wise, ask your veterinary team about other flavor enhancers you can add to encourage your pet to continue eating while transitioning to a new food.