

Changing Your Pet's Diet:



V E T E R I N A R Y H O S P I T A L I N C .
393 ZINNS MILL ROAD • LEBANON PA 17042 • 717-273-ACVH(2284)

- ✓ Before changing diets, make sure that your pet is feeling well and eating normally.
- ✓ If possible, change the diet when you have fewer outside distractions so you are better able to monitor the transition.
- ✓ Establish a new feeding schedule. If your pet has food available all the time, start leaving the food out for only one hour two to three times a day.
- ✓ Once the new feeding schedule is established, introduce the new diet. Start by replacing 25% of your pet's regular food with the new food mixed in. As your pet begins to eat the new food, reduce the amount of the other diet as much as possible. Complete the change over in one to two weeks.
- ✓ If a canned food has been prescribed and your pet doesn't like canned food, adding one to two cups of warm water per cup of dry food may work as a substitute.
- ✓ There are several manufacturers of prescription foods. Don't hesitate to ask to try a different food if your pet doesn't like the first one, but try the new diet for a few weeks at least. Once you find a diet your pet likes, stick to it.
- ✓ Small quantities of flavoring agents (i.e. cats love tuna, clam or salmon juice, dogs enjoy turkey broth or beef bouillon) can be mixed with the new diet to make it more appealing. If you want to try this, please check with the veterinarian first.
- ✓ You'll be given advice on the minimum amount of food your pet should eat each day. If your pet doesn't eat all its food every day, this may be normal. As long as no more than 10% of your pet's weight is lost, you should not be too concerned during the transition period.
- ✓ Feed your pet in a quiet environment in which he or she won't be distracted or threatened.

Please call Apple Creek Veterinary Hospital at 273-2284 (ACVH), if you have any questions or concerns.