



Feeding Your Puppy: A First-Year Timeline

- **6-12 weeks:** Growing pups should be fed puppy food, a diet specially formulated to meet the nutritional needs for healthy development. Feeding adult food will rob your puppy of essential nutrients. Four feedings a day are usually adequate to meet nutritional demands. Large breeds should be fed non-moistened dry food by 9 or 10 weeks
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- **3-6 months:** Sometime during this period, decrease feedings from four to three a day. A pup should be losing her potbelly and pudginess by 12 weeks. If she is still roly-poly at this age, continue to feed puppy-size portions until body type matures.
- **6-12 months:** Begin feeding twice daily. Spaying or neutering lowers energy requirements slightly; after the procedure, switch from nutrient-rich puppy food to adult maintenance food. Small breeds can make the switch at 7 to 9 months; bigger breeds at 12, 13, even 14 months. Err on the side of caution: Better to be on puppy food a little too long than not long enough.
- **After age 1:** Most owners feed adult dogs two half-portions a day.

Transition Your Dog to a New Food

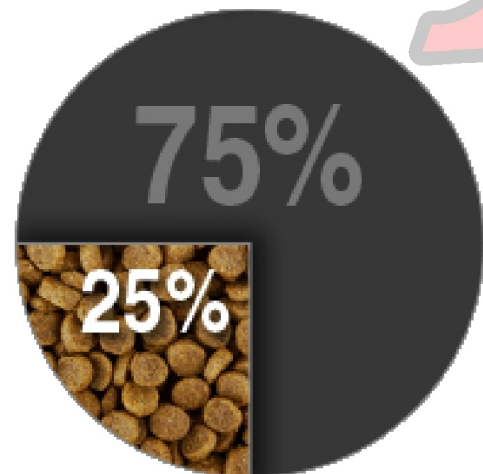
There are several reasons why you may want (or need) to change to a new food brand or formula:

- Your pet has a food allergy or sensitivity
- Your pet is entering a new life stage
- Your pet needs to lose or gain weight
- You're bringing a new pet home/NEW PUPPY**
- Your veterinarian has recommended a specific diet for your pet
- You want to give your pet more of a variety
- Whatever the reason is for change, you should always consult with a veterinarian before transitioning your pet to a new diet. Dogs and cats can experience an upset stomach if you don't transition them to a new food gradually. Transitioning too quickly can lead to diarrhea, vomiting or even loss of appetite.



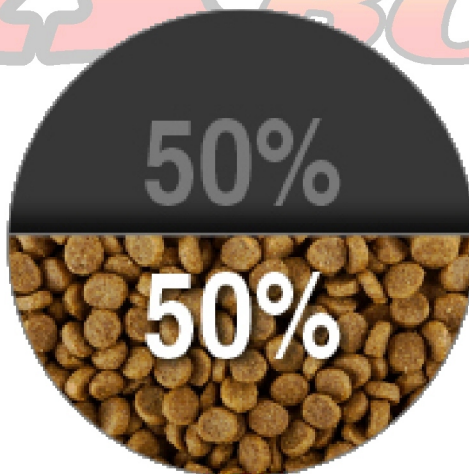
When transitioning to a new pet food, do so slowly over a period of about 7-10 days, mixing an increasing amount of new food with old food each day:

- Start with 75% old food mixed with 25% new food for approximately three days.
- Then mix 50% old with 50% new for approximately three days.
- Then 75% new, 25% old for approximately three days.
- Then 100% new.



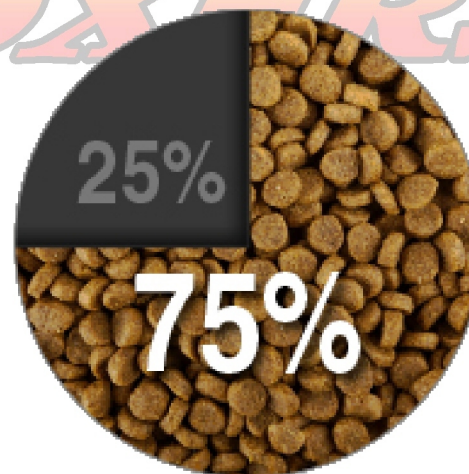
Day 1-3

75% old food
25% new food



Day 4-6

50% old food
50% new food



Day 7-9

25% old food
75% new food



Day 10

100% new food