

# Changing to a new dog food



A guide for easy transition

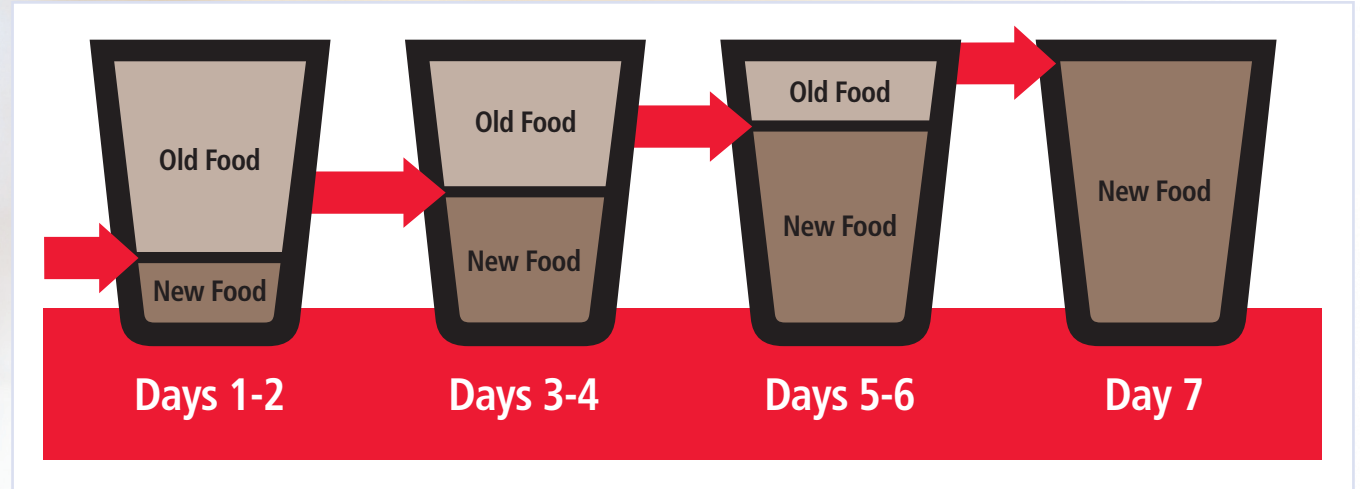
## When your dog needs a new food

The single most important thing you can do to help your dog accept a new food is to gradually transition from the old to the new food over a period of at least 7 days.

Although many dogs will readily eat a new food when it's offered the first time, they may still experience side effects like vomiting, loose stools, and flatulence (gas).

Some dogs are finicky eaters and may be reluctant to try something new, especially when it's offered suddenly.

Slowly changing to the new food gives your dog time to adapt and greatly increases the chance of a successful outcome.



### Patience is the key

You may be anxious to get started right away; however, this is not the best method for a smooth transition. If you invest a little time initially to help your dog adjust and accept the change, you both will enjoy the benefits of the new food. This is especially important for foods that should be fed for the remainder of your dog's life (e.g., for kidney disease).

One approach is to mix the current (old) and new food.

- Begin by feeding a small amount of the new food during the first 1-2 days and then gradually add more new food (and less old food) until you're feeding only the new food by the end of 7 days.
- For finicky dogs, be patient and continue the transition longer (e.g., another 3 to 7 days).

Another technique is to offer the new food next to the current food in separate side-by-side containers.

- This allows your dog to make choices instead of feeling forced to eat the new food suddenly.
- Once your dog begins eating the new food, gradually provide less of the current food and more of the new food.
- You should still allow at least 7 days for transitioning to the new food completely.

### Timing it right

It is important to avoid beginning a new food during stressful times (e.g., boarding) or when your dog is not feeling well. Dogs can associate the new food with stressful or unpleasant situations, and may not want to eat it even when they are feeling better.

## Increasing food's appeal

For finicky eaters, here are some additional tips you can try after beginning a gradual transition to the new food:

- Provide privacy and a quiet area away from loud noises and other pets.
- Hand-feed your dog, at least initially. The person offering the food should have a good relationship with the dog prior to introducing the new food.
- Offer moist food (e.g., canned) along with dry food.
- If canned food has been refrigerated, warm to body temperature before feeding. Stir thoroughly to distribute "hot spots" that occur during microwave warming. If it's too warm to touch, it's too warm to feed.
- Feed canned food from a newly opened container since some dogs will not eat refrigerated food even if it's been warmed.
- If your veterinarian has recommended a therapeutic food (e.g., for kidney disease or arthritis), ask for the form of food you prefer to feed (canned, dry or both). Adding foods from the grocery or pet food store will greatly decrease the benefit of the therapeutic food.



## If you need more help

Consult your veterinarian for additional information if:

- Your dog has decreased appetite or other side effects that last longer than 2-3 days
- You are interested in treat options for your dog

For more information about Hill's® pet foods, call Consumer Affairs at **1-800-445-5777** or visit



## Special Feeding Instructions

Dog's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended food: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeding directions: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



All Hill's® pet foods come with a 100% guarantee that your pet will love the taste or you can return the unused portion for a full refund or replacement.

### For More Information

Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_