

A Guide to Transitioning Your Pet to a Healthier, Natural Dog Food

- In most cases we realize transitioning slowly from your old to a new is not possible. Most of the time we are out of food when we go to purchase our next bag of food, or our dogs simply won't eat the old food due to the increased taste of the new food. In that case, feed smaller portions more regularly. We suggest breaking up the daily intake to 3 to 4 feedings per day. Adding warm water to the food will aid in digestion and decrease the chance of your dog eating too quickly and not chewing thoroughly. Also, adding canned Pumpkin (*not pumpkin pie mix*) to your pets food will help curb loose stools and also aid in the digestion of the new food.
- If at any time during the transition, your dog experiences gastro-intestinal upset, keep the ratio of new to old food the same for several days. This will allow your dog to adjust to the new ratio before you incorporate more of the new food. In the event you are not transitioning with your old food, withhold food for 1 day and then start re-introducing 3 to 4 feedings per day mixed with warm water and canned Pumpkin. All other treats and supplements should be withheld until fully transitioned.
- You may notice a change in the appearance of your dog's stool even after the transition period. This can often be a result of a change in the amount of fiber and protein in the new diet and is normal.

Why a Transitional Acclimation Must Occur When Changing Your Dog's Diet?

Your dog's digestive tract is sensitive and needs time to acclimate to changes in diet. At Pabby's we recommend the following transition guidelines based on customer feedback, advise from veterinarians and our own experience with our family pets.

Most natural dog foods contain more meat and fewer carbohydrates than most other brands. While a higher meat to carbohydrate ratio provides a healthier and more natural canine diet, those dogs that are used to eating a different diet will transition easier if the old food and new food are mixed together for a short time.

All natural dog food is also denser than most other brands because of the use of all natural human grade meat meals which are low in moisture and very high in pure protein. When cooked, these meat meals shrink much less than other protein sources. This results in a pet food that is denser and more nutritious. Many dogs also find these foods to be more palatable.

An abrupt change to a different diet can cause some dogs to experience gastro-intestinal upset, for example, loose stools or vomiting. While this upset usually disappears in a

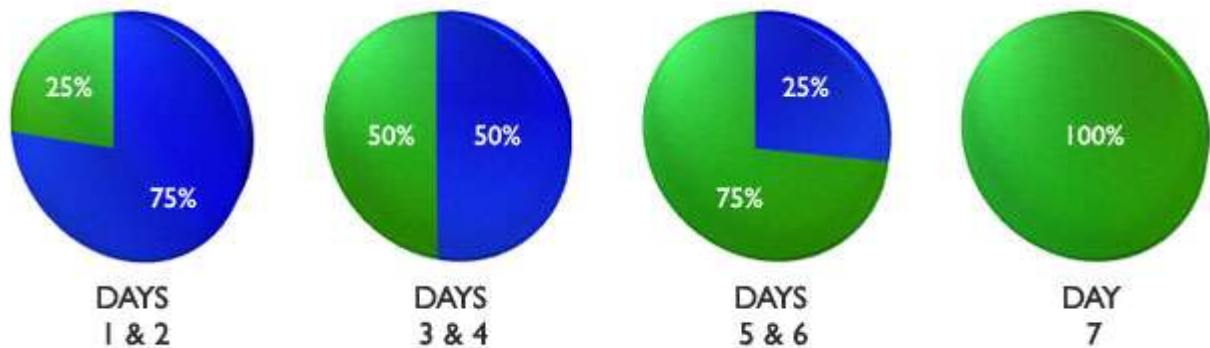
matter of days, it can often be avoided by following these simple transition guidelines. Unlike humans, dogs often eat the same diet for months or years and their digestive systems are not as used to change as ours are.

How to Transition Your Dog's Diet if old food is available

This process should usually take about six days as outlined below, but you can increase the transition time if your dog is particularly sensitive.

- Days 1&2: Start with 25% New to 75% Old.
- Days 3-7: Follow pie chart and decrease the % of old to new accordingly.

DOG FOOD TRANSITION GUIDELINE



If you have any questions please call **Pabby's Pet Pantry at 215-674-3917**