Switching Pet Foods Safely & Sensitive Stomachs

Why Cold-Turkey Switches Upset Tummies • Reading the Bag's Transition Chart • Picky Cat Rules

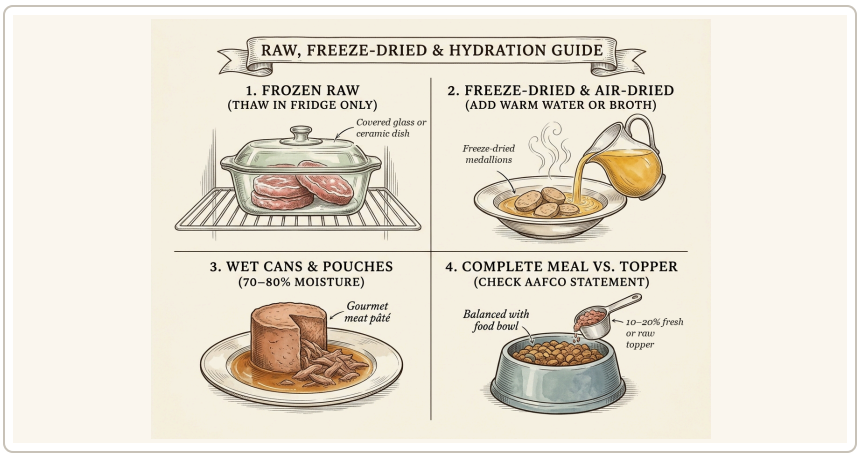
The Quick Version: Switching a dog or cat's food all at once ('cold turkey') is one of the most common reasons a pet gets loose stool, gas, or turns away from the bowl — making it look like they 'hate' the new food when their gut microbiome just needed time to adjust! Always **follow the gradual transition directions printed on your new food's bag or can**, keep mealtime routines steady, and go extra slow for picky cats.



APPLIES TO	RULE #1	SCHEDULE SOURCE	IF STOOL SOFTENS	PICKY CAT RULE
Dogs & Cats	Never Switch Cold Turkey	Follow the New Bag's Chart!	Slow the Ramp Down	Never Starve a Cat to Switch!

1. How to Coach a Smooth Food Switch Without Upset Tummies

THIRTY SECONDS OF CHECKING THE TRANSITION BOX ON YOUR NEW BAG SAVES YOUR PET'S STOMACH (AND YOUR CARPET)!



Cold-Turkey Risk
Sudden 100% switch causes loose stool, gas, or bowl refusal
Avoid Sudden Switch

Where to Find the Schedule
Check near the feeding guide on your new food's bag or can
Follow Label Chart

Sensitive Stomachs
It's always OK to go slower than the bag's chart if stool softens
Go Slower If Needed

Picky Cats
Take extra time; never let a cat go without eating to force a switch
Never Starve a Cat!

When to Call the Vet
Vomiting, blood in stool, or a pet that stops eating → Vet visit!
Stop & Call Vet

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

1. Follow the Transition Directions on Your New Food's Label

Every manufacturer tests and prints its own transition guidance right on the package:

FIND THE TRANSITION BOX ON THE BACK OR SIDE OF THE NEW BAG

Before your old bag runs completely empty, buy your new bag so you have enough of the old food left to blend gradually according to the new bag's directions.

2. Three Extra Rules When Switching a Cat's Food

Cats imprint strongly on the shape, smell, and texture of their current food:

RULE A: NEVER STARVE A CAT ONTO A NEW FOOD!

Unlike dogs, a cat that refuses to eat at all can quickly develop serious liver complications (hepatic lipidosis). **Never 'wait out' a cat that won't eat** — offer their familiar food and call your vet if a cat stops eating.

3. Gut-Focused Foods, Pumpkin, Probiotics & Toppers

For healthy pets that need extra digestive support during a transition or rotation:

GUT-FOCUSED DAILY DIETS (NUTRISOURCE GOOD 4 LIFE & PUREVITA)

NutriSource and **PureVita** build their recipes around the 'Good 4 Life' prebiotic and probiotic system ('nourishes pets from the inside out'), making transitions inside their line especially smooth.

3. Digestive-Friendly Foods & Transition Helpers We Carry

OUT OF STOCK ON YOUR USUAL FOOD? ASK OUR CREW FOR THE CLOSEST PROTEIN & LIFE-STAGE MATCH!

NutriSource & PureVita Good 4 Life Gut System (Dog & Cat)	Built-in prebiotics and probiotics across both grain-inclusive and grain-free recipes so you can transition or rotate proteins smoothly.
FirstMate, Fromm & Farmina N&D Gentle, Digestible Recipes	**FirstMate** simple single-protein/single-carb formulas, **Fromm** family-made recipes, and **Farmina N&D Pumpkin & Quinoa** digestive formulas.
Digestive Probiotics, Pumpkin & Broths Dog & Cat Digestive Support Shelf	Canned/pouched plain pumpkin & digestive fiber toppers (like Weruva Pumpkin Patch Up!), fermented raw goat's milk, and daily probiotic powders/chews.

Portion Check & Vet Warning Signs:

- **Check Calorie Density** — A nutrient-dense new food may require a smaller scoop than your old food — check the bag's cup chart!
- **Keep 3–5 Days of Old Food** — Buy your next bag while you still have a bottom layer of the current food left to mix
- **Red Flags = Call the Vet** — Vomiting, watery diarrhea with blood, lethargy, or refusing all food requires a vet visit
- **Diagnosed GI Conditions** — If your pet has IBD, pancreatitis, or a prescription GI diet, always follow your vet's plan

Overfeeding Looks Like Loose Stool Too! When switching to a higher-protein or more calorie-dense food (like Orijen, Acana, Farmina, or Nulo), feeding the exact same big scoop you used for a lower-calorie kibble can cause soft stool simply from overeating. Always check the calorie count and feeding chart on the new bag!

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Pet Nutrition Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

- **Don't Wait Until the Old Bag Is Empty** — Start your transition while you still have about a week's worth of your pet's current food in the bag.
- **Follow the New Bag's Mixing Guide** — Point to the transition chart on the back of your new bag and let your pet's stool quality set the pace.
- **Re-Measure Your Scoop** — Compare kcal/cup on the old bag vs. the new bag so you don't accidentally overfeed a richer recipe.
- **Special Order Your Usual Brand** — If your pet's usual food is temporarily out, we can match the closest protein/life-stage alternative today AND log a zero-deposit special request for your usual bag!

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

1. BEFORE YOU OPEN THE NEW BAG

- [ ] Enough Current Food Left to Mix Gradually (Don't Wait Until Empty!)
- [ ] Transition Schedule Located on the Back of the New Bag or Can
- [ ] Daily Portion (Cups/Grams) Checked Against the New Bag's Feeding Chart

2. OPTIONAL TRANSITION & TUMMY HELPERS

- [ ] Plain Pumpkin Pouch/Can or Digestive Fiber Topper (Follow Label Directions)
- [ ] Daily Dog or Cat Probiotic Supplement (Powder, Chew, or Goat Milk)
- [ ] Small Trial Bag or Single Cans (For Picky Cats or First-Time Tasters)

3. FRESHNESS & ROUTINE

- [ ] 8 oz Measuring Cup (Level Scoops, Not Heaping Coffee Mugs!)
- [ ] Bag Clip to Keep Both the Old and New Bags Airtight During the Switch

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: there's more than one right way to feed a healthy, thriving dog or cat! Flip the bag over with our crew anytime — we're happy to check the Guaranteed Analysis, AAFCO life-stage statement, and first five ingredients with you for **every smooth transition** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, use your phone number at the register for our Frequent Buyer Program (buy 10–12 bags of most brands, get the next free!), and stop by or call any of our 6 stores anytime!

MY PET'S TRANSITION NOTES

Pet Name & Age: _____

Current Brand & Protein: _____

Frequent Buyer Phone: _____