INSIDE FLAP • KEEPER HABITS

4 Keys to Long-Term Health

Small Daily Habits That Prevent 95% of Vet Visits

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!

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!

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

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

MY PET'S TRANSITION NOTES & FEEDING LOG

Pet Name & Weight: _____

Current Food & Protein: _____

Treats / Chews & Notes: _____

Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Questions about labels, picky eaters, or switching foods? Stop by or call our team anytime — we're here for the full every smooth transition!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • CARE GUIDE

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.

QUICK VITAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

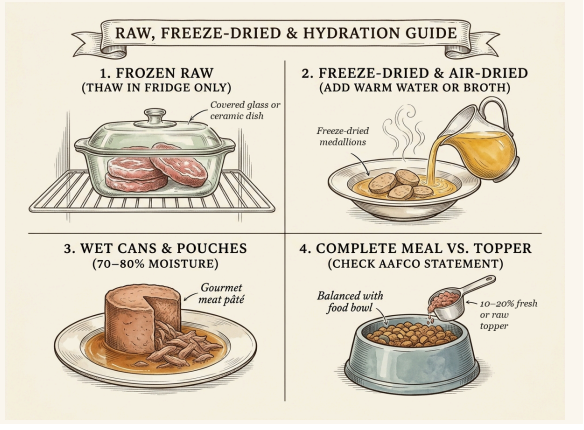
APPLIES TO **Dogs & Cats**	RULE #1 **Never Switch Cold Turkey**
SCHEDULE SOURCE **Follow the New Bag's Chart!**	IF STOOL SOFTENS **Slow the Ramp Down**
PICKY CAT RULE **Never Starve a Cat to Switch!**	

OPEN FOR LABEL RULES, BRANDS, FEEDING TIPS & CHECKLIST →

STEP 1 • LABEL & NUTRITION BASICS

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

Frequent Buyer Program: Just give your phone number at the register at any of our 6 stores — buy 10 to 12 bags of most food brands and your next bag of the same size is free!

STEP 2 • STOCKED STORE OPTIONS

Two Ways That Work

Pick Option A or Option B Based on Your Home Setup

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.

KEEP EVERYTHING ELSE ROUTINE — AND GO SLOWER IF NEEDED
Keep the same bowl, same feeding spot, and same mealtimes. If your pet's stool gets a little soft mid-switch, hold at the current mix ratio or step back for a few extra days until firm.

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.

RULE B: TRY A SMALL BAG FIRST (OR ASK ABOUT SAMPLES)
If you're sure your pet loves the recipe, the big bag is the best value per pound. If you're testing a new food for a picky eater, start with a small bag or single cans — and ask a manager if we have rep samples available!

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.

DIGESTIVE TOPPERS: PLAIN PUMPKIN, GOAT MILK & PROBIOTICS
We stock digestive probiotics, plain pumpkin pouches/cans, and raw goat's milk in our Dog & Cat Digestive Support sections — always follow the product label's serving directions!

STEP 3 • DIET & NUTRITION

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

Smooth Transition Rule: Follow the gradual mixing chart printed on your new food bag — never switch cold turkey! Keep kibble sealed inside its original barrier bag.