

Understanding and Overcoming Picky Eating in Pets

Is your furry friend turning up their nose at mealtime? Understanding why pets become picky eaters is crucial for their well-being. If you're facing this challenge, consider the following factors and solutions to make the transition to new foods smoother.

1. Unfamiliarity: "What the heck is in my bowl?" Pets may resist new foods due to unfamiliar appearances. Transitioning can be made easier by making the new food resemble their old one. Forming new foods into kibble-like shapes or adjusting the consistency by adding raw goat milk or gelatin jiggles can pique their interest.

2. Consistency Matters: "Caviar or Grits?" Some pets prioritize consistency over flavor. Experiment with foods of similar texture but different flavors. From creating a pate-like consistency to adding chunky blends, finding the right texture can help ease the transition.

3. Temperature and Freshness: Pay attention to your pet's preferences regarding food temperature. Food too cold or too warm can be a turn off. Additionally, freshness matters. If your pet turns their nose up after a food has been open for a while, consider thawing only the portion of food needed for one day. Our sliders are a great option for this!

4. Established Behavior: "Steak and Eggs, Please?" Sometimes, our worry about a pet's eating habits can make them pickier - they may value your attention more than their food. Avoid reinforcing pickiness by offering treats after your pet snubs their food. Seeking professional advice can help overcome behavior-based pickiness.

5. Choosing the Right Dinnerware: Consider the shape of your pet's bowl. Some pets, especially those with poor vision, may prefer oval-shaped bowls or flat plates to avoid discomfort. Ensure your pet feels comfortable while eating.

6. Trickery: "I'm in charge" Allow your pet to think it's their idea to try new food by placing it in a different eating area. This subtle trickery can reduce anxiety associated with changing their diet.

7. Food Issues: "My dish stinks?" Pets can detect odors better than we can. If your pet refuses to eat, there might be an issue with the food. Consult with the store where you purchased the food to ensure it meets quality standards.

8. Health Considerations: Gurgle, Gurgle... Stomachaches or other health issues can lead to picky eating. Address underlying health problems by gradually transitioning to a better-suited food or incorporating supplements like Raw Goat Milk, Microflora, Fido's Flora, or Optagest.

9. Eating Habits: Dinner and a Show... Encourage a slower eating pace to prevent stomach issues. For cats, interactive feeding methods like tossing freeze-dried nuggets can add an element of play. For dogs, feeding inside a toy can make mealtime a fun and healthy experience.

Remember, understanding your pet's preferences and addressing their specific needs can make the transition to new foods a positive experience. If issues persist, please feel free to reach out to us for personalized advice!