

BENEFITS OF ROTATIONAL FEEDING

WHAT IS ROTATIONAL FEEDING?

Rotational feeding refers to a diet rotation that provides pets with regular dietary changes. Rotational feeding can be as simple as changing a dog's food every other bag or changing it meal to meal. How often, how quickly and how drastically to switch a dog's food depends on his stomach's sensitivity to change and types of proteins, as well as your lifestyle. There are many different reasons to adopt a rotational feeding program, ranging from adding interest to meal times or adding nutritional variety.

BENEFITS

Round Out Nutrient Intake

A single animal protein and a perfectly paired fruit or vegetable will appease dogs with food sensitivities or flavor preferences. Different animal proteins have different amino acid and fatty acid profiles, as well as various minerals and vitamins. For example, beef contains significant amounts of iron but is lower in omega-3 fatty acids than pork¹. Amino acids, which are the building blocks of proteins, differ slightly across different animal protein sources as well. Turkey meat contains higher amounts of the amino acid tryptophan than pork meat². A dog has basic nutritional requirements which we refer to the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO), rotational feeding adds variety. The dietary variation that dogs and cats' wild cousins would experience is typically lost in regular feeding. Through rotational feeding, our pets gain diversity in their nourishment.

Protein Exposure

Food sensitivities exist in dogs but are often misdiagnosed or confused with food allergies³. Food allergies cause an immune mediated response³, whereas food sensitivities are much more common and traditionally manifest as poor food reactions, including soft stools, excess gas, itchy dry skin and itchy paws and ears³. Just like humans, exposure to different proteins at a young age may decrease the chances of developing food sensitivities. Feeding a rotational diet to a dog exposes them to a broader range of proteins and helps to prevent sensitivities.

Flavor Fatigue

Often, pets experience flavor fatigue from eating the same diet every day, just as we would. Rotational feeding keeps dogs and cats interested in the food and prevents flavor fatigue. Rotational feeding also offers the novelty of new foods⁴. This can help boost intake for picky eaters or animals with a reduced appetite.

OPTIONS FOR ROTATIONAL FEEDING

We create diets completely balanced to be fed alone and offer the unique opportunity to rotate between diets. We specifically pick and create a diet to contain only five macro-ingredient classes with the same botanicals and low-glycemic carbohydrates allowing Pet Lovers to add the dietary variation traditionally seen in the wild, with minimal chance of gastrointestinal upset. If you would like more information on how to incorporate rotational feeding into dogs or cats' diets, please call or book an appointment to learn more.



1. References: USDA Food composition database. Accessed April 4, 2018. DOI: <https://ndb.nal.usda.gov/ndb/search/list>
2. Chesney, C.J. 2006. Food sensitivity in the dog: a quantitative study. *Journal of Small Animal Practice*. 43(5):
3. Wills, R., & Harvey, R. 1994. Diagnosis and management of food allergy and intolerance in dogs and cats. *Australian veterinary journal*.71(10):322-6
4. Stasiak, M. 2002. The development of food preferences in cats: the new direction. *Nutritional neuroscience*. 5(4):221-8