

PET HEALTH

Some people find it difficult to switch their pets to a natural, raw food diet, especially if their pet is older and has only ever eaten a commercial food diet. Cats (as always!) often prove to be the most temperamental. So how can you convince your cat to embrace a healthy diet?

If your pet is old or ill you might decide to change their diet gradually, mixing a small amount of the new healthy raw food diet with their familiar commercial food. Gradually, over a period of a few weeks, increase the amount of raw food and decrease the amount of commercial food until they are eating only raw food.

Other ways to tempt your temperamental little furry friend are to warm the food to body temperature (mimicking freshly killed prey); feeding very small, frequent meals (so they are never full and therefore more interested in eating); and finely mincing or chopping offal or adding a little plain canned fish with each meal taking care to mix it well with the meat, vegetables and supplement mix.

After losing one of my cats, Matisse,

to a tick late last year and having to put down my elderly cat, Monet, just after Xmas, I have recently adopted 2 Ragdoll cats. “The boys” are 1 year old littermates and were previously fed a commercial diet. Luckily they were quite open to the idea of a new healthy diet but for some reason weren’t sure of the best way to eat their meat and vegetable meal, resulting in a very messy eating area. The problem was solved by rolling this meal into small balls. They find their dish of raw mini meatballs easy to manage and I will gradually increase the size of their meatballs until they are eventually eating their meal as one large piece.

Bones (necessary for ensuring healthy teeth and for providing important minerals in the diet) seem to cause the most problems as cats fed on a commercial diet have never learned to really chew their food.

Try bashing chicken necks with a meat mallet—pulverising them so that they require very little chewing. Again, gradually bash them less and less until your cat is eventually chewing up whole chicken necks and other small meaty bones.

My newly adopted Ragdoll boys—Manet & Renoir



When he was put down Monet, at almost 21 yo, had all his teeth except for a few of his lower incisors—a reflection of a lifetime of healthy eating.

My new “boys” are now enjoying whole chicken necks as well as their raw meat, vegetable and supplement mix meal.

The same principles apply when changing dogs from a commercial to raw food diet.

For diet suggestions see “Feeding Guide for Cats” and “Feeding Guide for Dogs” on my website: www.berigorafarm.com.au - under the Berigora Farm products page

FEATURE PRODUCT

While on the subject of healthy diets for cats and dogs, to ensure optimum nutrition I recommend adding a supplement mix to the basic diet of meat, vegetables and bones. After feeding my cats and dogs a natural, raw food diet for over 25 years I have developed two supplement mixes to ensure optimum nutrition.

EVERYDAY SUPPLEMENT FOR DOGS & CATS

A powdered supplement for young, healthy dogs and cats, designed to be fed in conjunction with fresh meat, vegetables and bones to provide a balanced diet.



Ingredients: ground flaxseed, ground sunflower seed, dolomite, kelp, lecithin, vitamin C mixture (ascorbic acid, calcium ascorbate, sodium ascorbate), bentonite clay, dandelion, nettles, spirulina, olive leaf, alfalfa, garlic, aniseed, cinnamon, MSM (methylsulfonylmethane), peppermint, rosemary, parsley, sage, thyme.

Available in: 250g (\$8.80); 500 g (\$13.20); 1 kg (\$22.00); 2 kg (\$38.50) and 5 kg (\$88.00) packs.

EVERYDAY EXTRA SUPPLEMENT FOR DOGS & CATS

Designed for pets with high nutritional needs, such as elderly or ill pets, Everyday Extra is a powdered supplement designed to be fed in conjunction with fresh meat, vegetables and bones to provide a “nutrient dense” balanced diet.

Ingredients: ground flaxseed, ground sunflower seed, dolomite, vitamin C mixture (ascorbic acid, calcium ascorbate, sodium ascorbate), gelatine, kelp, spirulina, lecithin, turmeric, bentonite clay, crataeva, dandelion, green lipped mussel, shark cartilage, MSM (methylsulfonylmethane), nettles, olive leaf, alfalfa, garlic, hawthorn berries, mullein, aniseed, cinnamon, fruit pectin, ginger, peppermint, rosemary, parsley, sage, thyme, cleavers, copper sulphate.

Available in: 250g (\$16.50); 500 g (\$27.50); 1 kg (\$44.00); 2 kg (\$71.50) and 5 kg (\$164.00) packs.

To calculate the pack size you need, see the “How Much to Order” chart on the BerigoraFarm products page of my website: www.berigorafarm.com.au

Yours in good health—Carole