



Food, glorious food! A guide to feeding your new pet.

This is some general advice about feeding your new pet and helping them make an easy transition into their new home. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about diet.

Cats

While they are with us our cats are fed a variety of foods. This is both for their nutritional health (because variety is good for everyone) and to ensure that when they go to their new homes they aren't fixated on a particular variety of food. No fussy eaters for us!

Food

We feed a combination of:

- high quality kibble (dry cat food) appropriate for age and size (we use and recommend [Black Hawk](#)).
- wet (tinned) food
- raw food (raw chicken necks/wings, raw meat (beef/lamb/chicken/turkey, etc).

We strongly recommend that you feed a good quality kibble to your cat, even though it might seem a more expensive option. The less-expensive supermarket brands tend to have a much lower nutritional profile and a higher proportion of fillers (grains and starches) than the more expensive brands. This means that your cat will need to eat more of the cheaper brands, and will be able to use less of them. For cats this is a bit like you living on white bread and chips, you can survive, but you probably won't be at your shiniest and most energetic. For you, feeding the cheaper brands tends to me a lot more production at the litter box end. Look for a kibble which has meat as the first item in the ingredients list. We use [Black Hawk](#) which is a premium brand made in Australia.

We also strongly recommend that you feed a good proportion of raw food - soft bones like chicken necks or wings, or meat in chunks. This is both for nutrition and because chewing on the soft bones or chunks of meat help maintain good tooth and gum health in your cat. Many cats suffer gum disease from lack of food to chew, and this can have a huge impact on their health as they age and may lead to kidney disease.

Raw diet

If you are interested in feeding your cat an entirely raw diet there is some more information [here](#). We like to feed our cats a lot of raw food because we believe, that like humans, a diet high in unprocessed food is good for you.

How often?

Our cats are usually fed twice a day (kittens three or four times a day) and, of course, there is always fresh water available. If your cat is a grazer rather than a bolter, you could leave a bowl of kibble available all the time - just keep an eye on your cat's weight!

Treats

You can experiment with treats for your cat; a little bit of milk or cream, some yoghurt, tinned sardines or a bit of bacon rind. A little bit of what you fancy is good for you, so find out what your cat enjoys and have fun treating them occasionally. There are some foods which are [toxic for cats](#), so just be aware of them.

Heading for Home: Central Victorian Animal Rescue

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Dogs

While they are with us our dogs are fed a variety of foods. This is both for their nutritional health (because variety is good for everyone) and to ensure that when they go to their new homes they aren't fixated on a particular variety of food.

Food

We feed a combination of:

- good quality kibble (dry dog food) appropriate for age and size (we use and recommend [Black Hawk](#))
- some wet (tinned) food or loaves (such as Vets All Natural or Ecopet)
- a high proportion of raw food. Depending on the size of dog, this might mean chicken necks/wings or whole chicken frames and other soft bones such as lamb necks/flaps, etc. In general we fed raw, meaty bones rather than just raw meat. You might like to cook your own dog food.

Our preference is for a mostly raw diet, supplemented by good quality kibble and a proportion of other foods. If you want to share your human food with your dog adjust the portions accordingly. There are some human foods are [toxic for dogs](#), so avoid them. Also avoid feeding cooked bones - unlike raw bones they tend to splinter and can cause perforations of the stomach or bowel.

If you are going to feed mostly kibble, we strongly recommend you buy a really good quality one. Look for a kibble which has meat as the first item in the ingredients list. We use [Black Hawk](#) which is a premium brand made in Australia. For you the advantage of a good quality kibble is that there will be much less cleaning up of what comes out the other end of your dog - cheaper foods have a lot of fillers, which make large, sloppy faeces. A diet of good quality food with a proportion of raw, meaty bones produces smaller, firmer faeces which disintegrate quickly.

How often?

Our dogs are generally fed twice a day (puppies three or four times).

Dogs enjoy routine, so you can use feed times as way of organising your dog's day. A nice walk in the morning and a meaty bone for entertainment will help your dog settle into a routine during the day.

Raw diet

We like to feed a mostly raw diet because we believe, that like humans, a diet of mostly unprocessed food is better for you. If you'd like more information about raw feeding for dogs, there is information [here](#).

Treats

Experiment with treats your dog enjoys. You can use these treats as training incentives - your dog doesn't have to eat his or her meals out of a bowl, you might feed all of their daily portion over the course of the day for training!

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