



FOOD TRIAL



PURPOSE OF A FOOD TRIAL:

A food trial helps determine if your dog or cat has a food allergy. We recommend to start with a food trial first although, there's a blood test available. The test however, is extensive , accurate and worth the price.

HOW TO CONDUCT A FOOD TRIAL:

- 1. Use ONLY vet recommended food:**
 - Select a single type of food (e.g., Diamond Lamb and Rice dry food).
 - **Do not** switch between canned and dry versions or different flavors.
- 2. Strict Diet:**
 - Feed **ONLY** the vet recommended food for 6-8 weeks.
 - **No other food, treats, or flavored medications.**



HYDROLYZED DIETS:

Hydrolyzed Diets: Components broken down to prevent allergic reactions.

Purina Veterinary Diet HA: Suitable for dogs with multiple allergies.

Purina Veterinary Diet Gentle Snackers: Treats compatible with HA diet.



We will tell you that your pet can only have three (3) things.

1. Water
2. Air
3. The **one** chosen food

It is essential that nothing other than the recommended food and water (and medications agreed by your vet) should be ingested by your pet for the duration of the food trial, otherwise results may be inaccurate.

IMPORTANT

Follow the food trial instructions strictly for accurate results.

AVOID COMMON MISTAKES:

- **No Treats or Flavored Medications:** Only give what's allowed by your vet.
- **Avoid Contamination:** Clean food bowls, utensils, and hands thoroughly.
- **Prevent Scavenging:** Keep your pet away from dropped food, bins, and other sources.

Stay Committed: Some pets take 8 weeks or longer to show improvement.





WHAT ARE FOOD ALLERGIES AND FOOD INTOLERANCES?

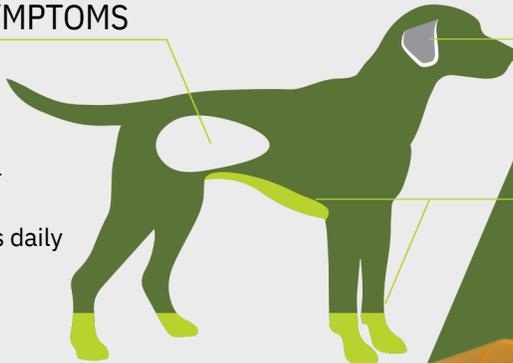
Food allergies and food intolerances can both cause digestive issues in dogs, triggered by a reaction to certain ingredients in their diet. The main difference is that food allergies involve the immune system, while food intolerances do not. Additionally, food allergies often cause skin and ear problems, either on their own or along with digestive symptoms.

WHY IS MY DOG ON A FOOD TRIAL?

Symptoms of food and environmental allergies can look the same, so a food trial helps identify or rule out food allergies. For itchy dogs, this trial usually follows treatment for infections or parasites. Dogs with digestive issues may also undergo blood tests or stool analysis before starting a food trial.

DIGESTIVE SYMPTOMS

- Diarrhoea
- Loose stools
- Excess gas
- Jelly on/with stool
- Vomiting
- More than 3 stools daily



EAR SYMPTOMS

- Appearance: Smelly, irritated and inflamed, scabs
- Behaviour: Itching, scratching, rubbing

SKIN SYMPTOMS

- Appearance: Smelly, irritated and inflamed, areas of hair loss, dandruff/scabs, greasy and skin colour change
- Behaviour: Itching, scratching, rubbing, persistent licking, chewing or nibbling

WHY NOT JUST USE MEDICATION?

For some dogs, removing problem foods can resolve symptoms, eliminating the need for lifelong medication. Others with additional environmental allergies may see partial improvement, which still helps reduce medication. Since food allergies are common in dogs, especially those with skin or ear issues, dietary changes are an important first step.



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