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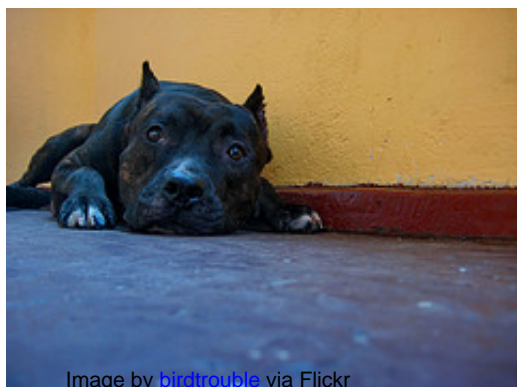


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When Doggie Hates the Menu

You may well know the **feeling of staring at your dog** while he or she **stares at the food dish**, sighs, and looks at you with an expression which clearly says "You expect **ME** to eat **THAT**?" At those moments, you may even be wondering why you simply don't just get a cat, which would at least be coming to you with the **reputation of being a picky eater**.

There aren't too many dog owners that have not found themselves in the same situation. And because you are a kind-hearted sort, your dog knows that if it waits long enough, sure enough, something really tasty shows up. Mission accomplished. Owner happy, dog happy and dog just won round one. Many owners are fixated on their **dog's eating habits**. That only makes things get worse and worse.

Once your **dog knows it can wrangle something else** out of you, it will keep on keeping on until it gets right out of hand. And if you think feeding him later will be easier, think again. It only gets worse. This type of behavior needs to be nipped in the bud immediately. Besides, **who is the Alpha dog** here anyhow – YOU or the dog?

Owners of **finicky eaters** are constantly **changing their diet to get them to eat**. This only makes your dog hold out to see if anything better is being offered. But these **ongoing switches** bring their own set of problems.

If you make **sudden dog diet changes**, this causes digestive upsets for your dog. Any diet changes need to be done slowly. **Add a small amount of new food to your pet's current food and gradually increase that amount while decreasing the amount of the current food over a seven to ten day period**.

But right now what we are discussing is NOT catering to a fussy spot – so **changing foods constantly** isn't going to help matters any.

You have likely also been in the situation where you have **purchased a whole swack of types of dog food** (canned and dry) to let your dog figure out what he likes. Not a good idea, because if he doesn't like anything, three guesses who will be running out and trying to find something better. Right – you! Chances are also that your **dog loves people food**. Uh-huh! This also isn't a good idea either. Really, if you were a dog wouldn't YOU want to have the **steak on the table rather than the kibble in the bowl**?



What can you do?

The basic rule of thumb is if that any dog which gets hungry enough **WILL eat no matter what is in the bowl**. Have patience and ye shall be rewarded. Don't **hover, plead, cajole, hand feed, or change the food**. Just leave it in the bowl and ----- WAIT!

Establish Regular Feeding Times and Stick with Them

The **value of having your dog on a timetable** and on a **regular dog diet** can't be over emphasized. **Dogs thrive on routine**, and besides, if you don't establish a routine and stick to it, your dog will implement one himself. **Dogs without routines** and a "pack leader" take over the roles themselves and you won't like the consequences.

If you feed regularly at the same time (or close to it) daily then when the food hits the floor then your dog will be there to eat it – and will in fact **learn to anticipate being fed**. If you never thought dogs (or other animals) could tell time, try **missing your regular feeding time** one day.

Here is the **most effective thing to do when you feed a finicky dog**. Feed at the regular time and if they do not eat the food within 15 minutes, you take the bowl up and put the food back in the fridge. The next time that bowl comes out and goes down on the floor is the second feeding of the day. Period! **Watch how fast your dog catches on** to the fact if he doesn't eat when the food is there, it's GONE.

If your pal is **getting adequate amounts of a palatable and nutritious food two times a day**, you have fulfilled your responsibilities as far as feeding is concerned. **Don't let doggie involve you in a battle of wills** like a spoiled child who won't go to bed without first having [ice cream](#). That food dish is **YOUR** domain!

Sharda Baker has published several dog ebook and audios, including the internet best selling ["Complete Guide to Your Dog's Nutrition"](#).

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