



10 tips to get kidney patients to eat their therapeutic renal diet

EDUCATE - your staff and the owner – therapeutic renal food is the **ONLY** treatment documented to **prolong survival time** in cats¹ – so it is important to persist.

TRANSITION - the **single** most important tip is **gradual transition** to the therapeutic food.

AMBIENCE – provide a “dining room” that is **quiet**, solitary and free from strong odours

PRESENTATION - try serving canned food on flat plates and **Experiment with presentation** of the food.

FOOD AVERSIONS – **avoid** feeding the therapeutic food when the pet is **sick** or **hospitalised**.

DON'T FORCE FEED – this will just lead to aversion to the food you want them to eat!

VARIETY – try **different versions** of the food, such as dry or canned or a different flavour.

PREFERENCES – Determine the pet's preferences. Some prefer fresh food warmed to room temperature. Some don't like canned food to be refrigerated in the original container (try storing in a plastic container).

FLAVOUR ENHANCERS – chicken broth, water from canned tuna, oregano, parmesan cheese.

TRY A DIFFERENT BRAND – but **don't use cafeteria approach** - swap only after a concerted effort to gain acceptance has been made.



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1. Ross S et al. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2006;229:949-957;

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