



# 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 cats<sup>1</sup> – 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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