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First Things First

Feeding Fido or Garfield used to be so simple.

You opened a can or a bag of food and dished up dinner or you simply shared your own dinner.

Now, it has become a science. There is so much information out there it can all become overwhelming.

How will you ever make sense of pet nutrition to keep your dog or cat healthy and happy?

Let us start by getting back to basics!

We want to take the ambiguity out of feeding your pets.

In this easy to read eBook, we will offer facts, explain health risks, and provide solutions on a variety of useful topics that include:

- ★ Shelf life of commercial pet food
- ★ What is safe and not safe to feed your pet
- ★ Tips to get a finicky pet to eat well
- ★ Common feeding mistakes and how to avoid them

Tip #1

How to enhance the shelf life of dry commercial pet food

First, let us share some important facts:

- One out of every three dogs is affected by cancer, according to the National Canine Cancer Foundation.
- Frequent consumption of oxidized fats in commercial dry food is a contributing factor to cancer in pets.
- The oxidation of fats is often caused by improper storage of dry pet food.

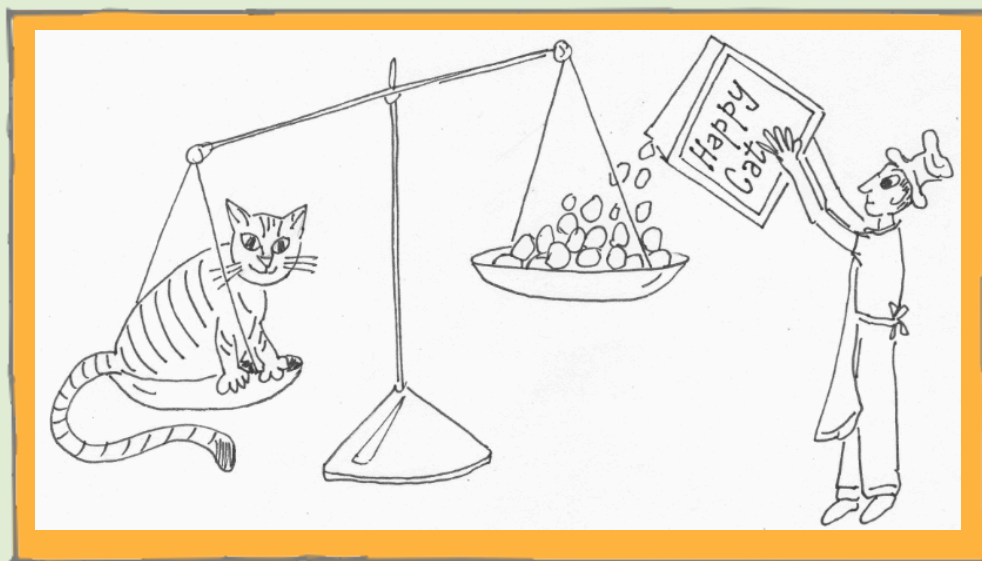
More important facts on how to enhance the shelf life of dry commercial pet food:

- The “Use By” or “Best if Used By” dates on pet food packages are commonly misinterpreted and really only apply to UNOPENED bags of food.
- Regardless of what the “Use By” or “Best if Used By” dates are, dry food should be used within 30 to 45 days of opening the bag, and any food left after this time should be discarded.

Treat your pet food the same way that you would treat your own food...

Think of any human food item that does not need refrigeration until after it is opened.

Now look at your pet's food the same way. Once you open it, the clock starts ticking.



To make it simple,

If the date on the bag of dry dog or cat food recommends “Use By” the last day of December of this year, this only applies if it is NOT opened.

If you open the bag in June, it retains its nutritional value for no more than 45 days.

The easy way to remind yourself is to place a label on the bag or container, note the date it is opened, and add your own expiration date 45 days from that date.

What starts to happen when you open a bag of commercial dry dog or cat food?

- Oxygen, moisture, light, mold spores, storage mites, and other potential contaminants take over your pet's food.
- Any antioxidants like Vitamin E will eventually all oxidize.
- The more fragile fatty acids like Omega-3 will eventually turn rancid due to air contact, making food harmful for your pet.

Dry pet food stored at room temperature for a long time can cause important Vitamins to lose their potency such as:

- Vitamin A
- Vitamin B1
- Most forms of folate
- Some forms of Vitamin B6
- Vitamin B5
- Vitamin C

This means that all the balanced nutrition your pet should be getting is lost, making it counterproductive to the health and welfare of your dog or cat.

Keep in mind,

The longer the food sits around, the older the food on the bottom of the bag gets, and the more nutrients it loses.



Health risks of improperly stored food:

- Bugs, storage mites, mice, and other unpleasant invaders will infest your pet's food.
- Antimicrobials used by the manufacturer to protect food against molds can become useless, leading to an increase in mold growth.
- Allergic reactions to the carcasses of storage mites can occur.

Additional health risks if your pet food is stored improperly...

- Storing open bags of dry food in warm, humid (such as a kitchen) promotes mold growth.
- More than ever before, scientists warn that waste products of these molds (Mycotoxins) can cause cancer and other serious health problems in humans, poultry, pigs and other animals, especially dogs.
- The mold *Aspergillus Flavus* produces Aflatoxin B1, which is the most potent naturally occurring carcinogenic substance known.

SOLUTIONS for keeping dry pet food healthy:

- Buy small bags of food with the most recent manufacturer's date.
- Never buy open or torn bags.
- Keep food in its original bag to reduce exposing all the food to the air all at once.
- Keep larger bags of dry food frozen until ready to use.

More SOLUTIONS for keeping dry pet food healthy...

- Once opened, be sure to apply a date label and to use the food by the 45-day expiration date.
- Keep food dry. If it does appear moist or gets wet, throw it away.
- Throw away any dry food that smells rancid or has any type of chemical smell.
- If the food has changed color, throw it away immediately.
- Do not force your pet to eat food if they take a few bites and then refuse to eat.

Keep treats safe!

- Only open 1 bag of treats at a time to minimize spoilage.
- Most treats are best stored frozen.
- Avoid any treats that are made in or from ingredients purchased from China.
- Follow the same 45-day rule with treats as you do with dry food.

Tip #2

Human foods that can harm your dog

Facts and health risks

- Onions can cause anemia in dogs.
- Raisins and grapes can cause kidney damage due to Mycotoxin contamination. These are harmful to your dog even at very low levels.

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