

Feeding Management

How to Encourage Finicky Pets to Eat

- Finicky eating can be an inherent or learned behavior or may be an indication of another issue. Rule out the following factors:
 - Overfeeding.
 - Misunderstanding normal feeding behavior or innate regulation of food intake.
 - Strong preference for a particular flavor or texture of food.
 - Food spoilage or expiration.
 - Satiety/fullness from consuming too many treats.
- Warming food to body temperature can increase the smell of food and help stimulate eating.
 - Both cats and dogs are motivated to eat by the smell, taste and texture of pet food.
 - Food attributes such as temperature or kibble/chunk size also influence food intake.
- Feeding wet food, especially with a gravy, or adding a complementary food topper can encourage eating.
- For dogs, adding warm water to dry food may encourage eating.



The Purina Institute aims to help put nutrition at the forefront of pet health discussions by providing user-friendly, science-based information that helps pets live longer, healthier lives.