



# The Royal Treatment

Veterinary Center

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## Custom Diet Preparation Guidelines

Thank you for choosing to feed a custom made and balanced diet for your pet. By following the guidelines provided below, you will offer an optimally balanced and nutritious meal at each feeding. If you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines or the accompanying diet(s), please call or email our office. We are always here to assist you with the process of offering home made food!

### **When Preparing -**

- All ingredients should be offered raw unless otherwise specified, such as cooked, canned, steamed, grilled, pickled, freeze-dried, etc.
- All bones, produce, seeds, nuts, grains, and eggshells should be finely chopped to aid in digestion and palatability. A food processor works great for this step! A meat grinder works best for the bones and if you do not have one, speak with your local, trusted butcher to see if they will do this for you.
- Please use specific brands when listed, as we have built your pet's diet using nutrition information about the brand specific ingredient and a substituted ingredient may not keep the diet balanced. If you have any difficulty sourcing brand specific ingredients, please contact us for alternatives.
- If your recipe(s) has a vitamin E source included called Standard Process Fortified Wheat Germ Oil, this product is available by prescription and can be filled for you at our clinic.
- If offering fish oil, including Omega fish oils, cod-liver oil, salmon oil, or krill oil, please offer these at the time of feeding to prevent oxidative damage to the oil. Mixing the oil into the base recipe and refrigerating/freezing the food will not prevent damage to the oils and will decrease their nutritive benefits.
- The recipe you receive can be scaled to just about any size. If your pet tolerates the diet, you may consider making a large batch that you can portion out into feeding sizes and freeze ahead of time. We recommend not making more than 3 months worth of frozen food for optimal nutrition. Frozen thawed foods can be fed up to 72 hours after defrosting.

### **When Feeding -**

- Offer fish oils at time of feeding for optimal nutrition. Your recipe will give the amount to include for the whole recipe. This amount will need to be divided by the number of days your recipe makes to know how much to offer with each day's meals (and divide further if feeding more than once per day). Feeding fresh oils at time of feeding is especially important if you are cooking some or all of the diet as this will affect the ideal Omega 3/6 ratio for your pet.
- Slowly transition your pet to this diet over a period of 7 - 10 days to assess tolerance and palatability. If your pet develops GI upset including vomiting and loose stools, please call us for guidance.
- If your pet is reluctant to try the new diet, please refer to our "Let's Eat" handout for food topping ideas that can increase palatability. You may also gently cook the diet in the oven at 225 degrees Fahrenheit for 10 - 15 minutes or on a stove top. Add in your fresh oils after the diet has been lightly cooked and removed from heat. If your pet still does not seem interested in the new diet, please let us know as we may be able to make the base diet more palatable.