

PET FOOD STORAGE TIPS

Keep Unused Pet Food in Sealed Container

Store dry pet food and treats in a cool, dry place (under 80° F). If possible, store dry pet food in its original bag inside a clean, dedicated plastic container with a lid, keeping the top of the bag folded closed. Always wash and dry your pet food storage containers before refilling them. Storing food in the original packaging has the added benefit of retaining the pet food's bar code, expiration date, and batch code – all of which are important information to have, especially in the event of a pet food recall. Refrigerate promptly or discard any unused, leftover wet pet food.

Wash Your Hands Before/After Handling Pet Food

“We all know that we're supposed to wash our hands before handling and preparing food,” says Bernadette Dunham, D.V.M., Ph.D., Director of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, “but what you may not know is that the same is true for before and after handling pet food and feeding your pets.” Washing your hands with warm soapy water for about 30 seconds helps keep pet foods from being contaminated with bacteria and other microorganisms, such as salmonella. It is also important to wash your hands after handling pet food. In the unlikely event the food is contaminated, this simple step can prevent you from becoming ill and possibly spreading the disease to others.

Wash Pet Food Bowls, Too

You wouldn't eat off the same plate or drink out of the same glass, day after day, without washing them between meals, right? Well, the same goes for your pet's food and water bowls. The FDA recommends washing your pet's food bowl every day and the water bowl every day or two.

Timing is Everything

Pet food should be used within 1 month of opening. The food is naturally preserved so it will begin to degrade immediately. If purchasing a larger amount than can be used in this time, store a partial amount in a zip lock bag in the freezer until needed.

Expiration dates (sometimes known as “best by” or “use by” dates) are established to ensure the safety of your pet. These are often found on the side or the bottom of the pet food package or can. Can't find the date? Call the pet food manufacturer. They can easily instruct you as to where the expiration date can be found. Don't take the risk of feeding your pet expired food.

Many thanks to PetMD.com for sharing their knowledge and interest in our pets

The staff at the Holistic Pet Center

Question? Contact us at: 503-656-5342 or info@holisticpetcenter.com