

13 Food Trial Threats - And How to Help Pet Owners Avoid Them



Taking the time to talk with pet owners about the common ways that food elimination trials fail can increase their success.

During a food trial, inadvertent exposure to unexpected protein sources can happen at any time, anywhere.

Below is a checklist to help pet owners avoid common food trial threats



1 At Mealtime

- Store the trial food in its original bag to prevent contamination, and keep it sealed between meals
- Stop ALL treats unless your veterinary team has approved them.
- Wash hands thoroughly before handling pet's food.
- Keep a separate bowl and measuring cup for your pet's trial food, and wash it with soap after every meal
- Consider moving your pet to another room during family meals if there are small children in the house
- Feed your pet entirely separately and clean their feeding area and materials thoroughly if you have other pets in the house

A checklist that will help pet owners avoid common food trial threats.

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2 Around the Home

- As a family, consider changes required for food trial success
- Make sure all family and guests know that your pet must not be offered any food other than their trial food
- NO snacks or leftovers from the table, including fruits and vegetables - even crumbs matter!
- Prevent access to food or protein sources (e.g. make sure your garbage or pantry are secured)
- Check the backyard frequently for food sources (e.g., rabbit fecal matter)



3 Out 'n About

- Identify places that your pet might access food or protein sources outside the home (e.g. neighbours, dog park, doggy daycare, kennel, etc.)
- Closely monitor your pet on walks to avoid access to food or protein sources