Digestion could not take place without enzymes

Enzymes are an integral part of the digestion system. From the time food enters the mouth, various enzymes break it into smaller units until it can be absorbed through the intestinal wall. These enzymes come from two sources—from the food itself, and from the body’s enzyme back-up system.

A different enzyme for each type of food

All raw food contains the proper types and proportions of enzymes to assist in the process of decomposition. When raw food is eaten, chewing releases these indigenous food enzymes from within the cells, which go to work immediately in the mouth and later in the stomach.

There are four basic types of enzymes. Protease breaks long protein chains into smaller amino acid chains, and then into single amino acids.

Amylase reduces large carbohydrates, such as starches, into simple sugars that the body can burn for fuel. Lipase digests fats into free fatty acids small enough to pass through the intestinal wall. Cellulase, not naturally produced by dogs or cats, breaks down plant fibers to free the nutrients inside the cell walls of fruits and vegetables.

The body’s back-up enzyme system

Cooking destroys enzymes starting at about 104° F. Other types of processing and storage destroy them as well. The body must produce its own replacement enzymes or become malnourished. In response to each batch of undigested food that reaches the small intestine, the pancreas manufactures and delivers the right enzymes to do the job. With cooked and packaged pet food, 100% of the enzymes must be supplied all the time.

Animals, who evolved on raw foods, were not designed to make so many enzymes, and this puts an enormous strain on the system.

By middle age, most dogs and cats experience significant enzyme depletion, resulting in allergies, skin problems, immune system breakdown, premature aging, and a host of other complications.

Supplemental enzymes to the rescue

Two simple remedies to this widespread problem are adding supplemental enzymes to cooked or packaged food, and feeding raw food (which has many benefits besides enzyme content). Either solution can bring about dramatic improvements! The best supplemental enzymes come from plant-grown sources. They mimic natural food enzymes by beginning digestion in the stomach, and then continue working in the lower digestive tract like pancreatic enzymes.

Symptoms of enzyme deficiencies:

1. Dry, flaky skin and dull coat—frequently due to poor absorption of fatty acids in the diet. Can be helped by giving enzymes and a fatty acid supplement together at each meal.

2. Allergies, rashes, hot spots, flea dermatitis and food sensitivities—poor protein digestion can trigger a biochemical chain reaction, resulting in inflammation and severe itching. Enzymes can break down proteins to stop the itching and let healing take place.

3. Intestinal gas, diarrhea, undigested food in the stool, stool-eating—slow or incomplete digestion of carbohydrates. In addition to enzymes, probiotic cultures may be needed to repopulate the intestinal tract with beneficial bacteria for complete food breakdown and nutrient absorption.
Enzyme Supplement Fact Sheet

Even more than we humans, dogs and cats need the benefit of enzymes. Our pets evolved eating raw, fresh, unprocessed foods, which contain the perfect quantity of enzymes to digest all the proteins, carbohydrates and fats within them. Modern day pet foods are devoid of enzyme activity needed for optimum health. We have seen almost miraculous transformations in animals after enzyme supplementation begins, including relief from itchiness, allergies, flea infestation, weepy eyes and ears, dry flaking skin, rashes, hair loss and hot spots. Enzymes also help other supplements work better by increasing their absorption into the body. Visit All The Best Pet Care for specific enzyme recommendations for your cat or dog’s needs.

Since 1990, All The Best Pet Care has been producing the finest digestive enzyme blends for pets found anywhere. Our proprietary formulations are targeted, concentrated powders that begin working in the stomach, just like enzymes in raw food. They require only a small dosage that is easy to mix into moist food or put into a capsule for pilling. Enzymes should be given any time cooked or processed food is served to replace the natural enzymes destroyed by heat.

Enzymes Plus
Our most popular formula contains a complete spectrum of digestive enzymes plus kelp extract, bioflavinoids, and two natural forms of Vitamin C—rose hips and acerola. The kelp provides the trace minerals that are the “spark plugs” for many biological processes, and vitamin C contributes vital immune support.

Good Digestion
Combines digestive enzymes with probiotic cultures, fructooliosaccharides (FOS), and alfalfa, barley and wheat grass to address the very common problem in dogs and cats of poor digestion, gas and loose stools, whether they’re the result of antibiotic therapy, poor diet, or inherited digestive weakness. Good Digestion repopulates the intestinal tract with beneficial bacteria, which in turn help to break down and assimilate the nutrients in food. Good Digestion is a must after a course of antibiotic treatment.

Enzymes pH
Contains not only digestive enzymes, but also cranberry extract and two natural urinary acidifiers, DL-methionine (an amino acid found in meat and dairy products) and sodium ascorbate (a form of Vitamin C). An acidic urine causes excess minerals excreted through the kidneys to remain in solution instead of forming struvite crystals that irritate and clog delicate urethral tissue. Enzymes pH is not recommended for dogs with oxalate crystals. Check with your vet.

Enzymes for Cats
Every cat can benefit from this carnivore-focused formula. Enzymes for Cats replaces the naturally occurring food enzymes destroyed by cooking and processing. It also contains the prebiotic Inulin to encourage growth of friendly gut bacteria and improve immune function. Cranberry and Vitamin C support urinary health. The pink powder mixes with all types of food. Since cats are finicky, start with a pinch and work up to the full amount.