QUICK TIPS

DOG BIZNESS

PICKY EATERS !

“ Ive tried so many foods...he likes them for a day and then wont touch them. Now he only eats roast chicken and even then its only sometimes.... ”

WHY IS MY DOG PICKY?

The most common reason is your dog is a lil too spoilt for choice and has become accustomed to eating part of what you have at nearly every meal time. You may not be giving them a lot, but if the possibility is there, they will often snob their meal food to take a gamble on some of your chicken parma.

Its important to note, apart from creating a picky eater, too much processed human food can cause pancreatitis. Ouch ! Of course our dogs can have *some* healthy *human* foods, but always check with your vet.

WORKING FOR FOOD

One of our favourite sayings is bowls are boring !

Ditch the bowl and be creative with your food delivery. Train with it or put the food in things like egg cartons, muffin tins, boxes, toilet roll holders, bottles, a scrunched up towel, cups, snuffle mat or just throw your dry food on the floor !Dogs have up to 300 million scent receptors, SO USE THEM ! Make them sniff and find their food. For some, this will take longer than trying it once or twice...remember there is reinforcement history of not having to work at all for their food ! You also need to know what sort of games your dog likes to play.

Not only is this a great exercise for the kids to be involved in, its also great confidence building for our more timid dogs because they are learning to problem solve and be successful ! (providing you dont make it too difficult) It will also keep your dog occupied for longer and help wear their lil brains out !

FREE FEEDING

Whilst there are some valid medical reasons for leaving your dogs food out all day, doing so is a sure fire way to deplete their food motivation. If its freely accessible, it reduces its value.

CHANGING FOODS TOO OFTEN

Trying various foods is common, but the more options your dog has, the less likely they will be to eat what’s in front of them. They wont starve themselves, so pick a high quality food and try to stick with it for a few days at least.

OTHER POSSIBLE REASONS

You must also consider behavioural issues. Maybe your dog likes to eat alone, feels threatened by other animals or people in their space, has had a negative experience in the area you feed them.

Always consult with your vet to ensure your dog doesnt have any underlying health issues that may effect their eating habits.

Need some dog training help?
www.dogbizness.com.au