

Gel diets offer a unique way to provide complete nutrition and moisture in a highly palatable food item. Gel diets come in a wide array of formulations designed to fit the needs of virtually any feeding program. Making gels is incredibly simple, and mixing directions can be modified to create a customized food item for any species. Just follow the simple directions below to prepare the gel that is right for animals in your facility.

FEEDING DIRECTIONS

Feed intake will vary depending on age, body size, and physiological status (maintenance, growth, reproduction, lactation).

The recommended daily intake is 2.5-3.0% dry powder per kg of animal body weight per day.

Never feed dry powder without first combining with water.

Prepared gel can be cut into any shape and size. Ice cube trays can be used for uniformity.

PREPARING THE GEL

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Kitchen scale for weighing gel powder
- Spoon, whisk, or fork
- Measuring cup for measuring water
- Container for mixing and storing the gel product
- Boiling or near-boiling water



MIXING DIRECTIONS

1. Determine the starting LabDiet®/TestDiet® Gel:Water ratio for the product you are using. This information can be found on the product spec sheet at www.LabDiet.com or www.TestDiet.com.

2. Weigh out the gel powder and place in mixing container. A chart of sample weights is shown on the back of this page, and these can be multiplied for larger batch sizes. **Note: weigh at room temperature.**

3. Measure the boiling or near-boiling water. **Note: water may be weighed or measured. 1 gram of water = 1 cc = 1 mL.**

4. Carefully add boiling or near-boiling water to activate gelatin.

5. Mix thoroughly for 2 minutes. Other items, such as chopped produce, may be added at this time. Medications may be added at the direction of your veterinarian and with close attention to the heat sensitivity of the medication. Consult your veterinarian regarding medication use, drug inclusion level, and heat sensitivity.

6. Place in refrigerator or freezer to set (will generally set in 8-12 hours in the refrigerator or 3-4 hours in the freezer).

7. After gelatin has set, cut into desired size and store in a sealed container either in a refrigerator or freezer.

8. Weigh or portion out the desired amount prior to feeding.



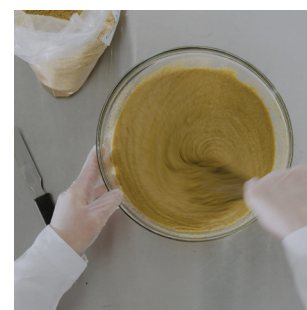
STEP 2



STEP 3



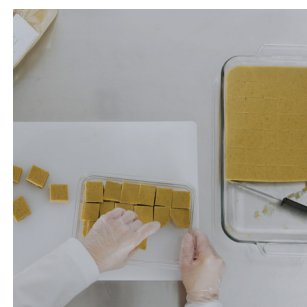
STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 6



STEP 7

GEL DIETS

BENEFITS OF FEEDING A GEL DIET

- **High moisture** = additional source of hydration
- **Highly palatable** = great for picky eaters or animals who have trouble eating
- **Versatile** = gels can be cut into any desired shape or size for easy, measurable, and fun feeding. It is also an easy and healthy way to provide supplements and medications.

STORAGE/SHELF LIFE

- 1 week prepared if refrigerated
- 1 month prepared if frozen
- 1 year dry powder (<72°F, 50% relative humidity)

For best results, store contents of open bag in a container with a sealing lid. Repeat thawing of prepared product is discouraged.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Can any temperature water be used?

A: Yes, but this will impact the consistency of the gel. Hot water is required to activate the gelling agent for a firm product. Using near boiling water helps reduce potential bacterial load in the diet.

Q: Can gel diets be fed as the sole source of diet?

A: Yes! LabDiet® gel diets are nutritionally complete, meaning no dietary supplementation is necessary. LabDiet® gels can also be fed in combination with fruit, vegetables, browse or other food items as desired.

Q: Can the powder to water ratio be adjusted during mixing?

A: Yes! Adjust the ratio as needed to achieve the consistency desired by your facility (or by your animals). Increasing gel to water will increase density and the firmness of the set gel.

SAMPLE WEIGHT CHART

TO MAKE ~225 GRAMS (~ ½ LB OF GEL DIET)

	WATER (g, mL OR cc)	GEL POWDER (g)
50:50 ratio	113	113
60:40 ratio	135	90
65:35 ratio	146	79
70:30 ratio	158	68
75:25 ratio	169	56
80:20 ratio	180	45
85:15 ratio	191	34

Scan the code for a video tutorial



Please visit www.LabDiet.com for more information about our non-human primate gel diets or www.TestDiet.com for custom gel diets. If you have any nutritional or technical questions, please contact us at info@LabDiet.com.

LabDiet
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