

## Enzymes - How They Boost Cat Digestion

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

how do  
**enzymes**  
improve your  
cat's digestion?



Food digestion and absorption in cats is an amazing and complex process. When proteins, fats, and starches enter the digestive system, they cannot be absorbed into the bloodstream because their molecular size is too large. They need to be broken down first, through an important catalyst – digestive enzymes.

Though the digestive process begins in the mouth with saliva, three main enzymes produced in a cat's pancreas play a large role in digesting and absorbing nutrients. Proteins are broken down by protease enzymes. Lipase digests fats, and amylase digests starches. If your cat's enzyme production is impaired, food will not be properly digested or absorbed.

In many older cats, it becomes very important to feed a [premium diet](#) with highly digestible proteins. In mild cases of reduced enzyme production, some owners may try a nutraceutical [enzyme supplement](#). In severe cases, a condition called pancreatic insufficiency develops, and cats require supplemental [pancreatic enzymes available by prescription](#) from a veterinarian. If you think your cat may not be digesting her food properly, talk to your veterinarian.

### Recommended Products



[Drs. Foster & Smith](#)



[Nutramax ProViable® Paste and](#)



[Acidophilus+ adds](#)

Adult Dry Cat Food

contains premium ingredients, including quality chicken meat and antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables.

Capsules

delivers good bacteria to help re-establish and maintain balance in your cat's intestinal tract

"good bacteria" to your cat's digestive tract.