



Special 33

**By Brent Mayabb, DVM
Royal Canin USA**

Some cats have sensitive digestive tracts which can result in GI upset or poor stool quality. And although these are the outward signs, they can be indicative of decreased absorption of nutrients or other intestinal issues. To help cats with sensitive digestive tracts, Royal Canin has formulated a diet called Special 33.

Cats with decreased digestive tolerance may have an imbalance of the “good” and “bad” bacteria in the intestinal tract. To help promote the good bacteria, Special 33 is formulated with fructo-oligosaccharide (FOS) and beet pulp. These ingredients contain soluble fiber which can be broken down into short chain fatty acids. These fatty acids provide energy for intestinal cells, as well as change the pH of the intestine to favor the beneficial bacteria. Digestive health is improved as the balance shifts away from the bad bacteria, and the health of the cells lining the intestinal tract is augmented.

Another consequence of gastrointestinal sensitivity may be decreased digestive and absorptive ability. Poor digestion can negatively impact your cat’s health over time. To combat this issue, Special 33 uses very highly digestible ingredients. Chicken, corn gluten meal, and wheat gluten, which are proteins that are very easy for the cat to digest, are utilized in Special 33. The more digestible the protein is, the more nutrients are absorbed by the cat and the less undigested residues make it to the colon for bacterial fermentation. Some cats may also have difficulty digesting large amounts of carbohydrates, so the level of this nutrient is controlled in the formula.

Cats with digestive issues may sometimes exhibit fussy eating behavior. Special 33 has a unique flavor enhancer that cats prefer in palatability trials. This is combined with our high quality ingredients to provide a taste even the pickiest cat can’t resist. The formula also has 3 different kibble shapes which has also been shown to stimulate eating.

“What should I feed my cat who has a digestive sensitivity?” is the question many cat owners ask when looking for a pet food. For cats with decreased digestive tolerances, Royal Canin Special 33 provides the nutritional answer.