

## What to do if you can't afford your pet's food

Even in a normal year Christmas can be financially stressful. So this year with people losing their jobs and businesses closing... it's even tougher.

When money gets tight sometimes people don't have enough money to buy cat food for their pet. Obviously no pet owner wants this to happen, and feels awful if they are put in this situation.

Because of the shame they feel, pet parents who are affected by this find it difficult to reach out and ask for help.

That's why I wanted to share some handy tips with you - to make sure your dog doesn't go hungry if there is no money for food until your next payday.

### 1 - Become a member of the “Random Acts of Pet Food” subreddit.

There is an online community on reddit dedicated to helping out pet owners struggling to pay bills and unable to afford cat food. People post their both requesting and offering to donate tins of cat food. You need to have an active reddit account to participate, so may need to set this up before being able to post here.

### 2 - Check with your local butchers

It might be worth ringing the butchers in your area to see if they have meat or fish they don't want but would be safe for your cat to eat.

### 3 - Check with your local animal shelters & food banks

Sometimes animal shelters have spare food they can donate - so it's worth ringing up the shelters in your area to check. Food banks may have human foods that are safe for your cat to eat too like tinned fish, deli meat, oatmeal, eggs and cheese.

### 4 - Ask for food samples

Some pet stores will offer free samples of cat food, and these can come in a decent serving size. If you say you are dealing with a very fussy cat you may even be able to get a few samples from one store. This tip isn't strictly ethical - but if it keeps a cat from going hungry I'm okay with recommending this.