



Common Sense Feeding

As in human medicine, good nutrition plays a large role in the overall health of our animal friends too. The benefits of consistently feeding a good quality pet food are many. Listed below are just a few:

- Less stomach and intestinal upset
- Better weight control
- Easier to give medication if and when needed
- Improved overall health
- Dietary supplements not needed (unless treating a specific problem)
- Easier to notice changes in appetite
- Easier to change diet for medical needs (e.g. kidney disease patients have special protein needs)

Dog vs. Cats

Dogs are omnivores, like us humans, while cats are true carnivores. This difference between our two favorite pets necessitates they each have their own food. Cats need more meat protein than dogs, more arginine and taurine (amino acids), a different assortment of fatty acids, pre-formed vitamin A and more niacin (a B vitamin) than dogs. This makes it apparent that a cat eating dog food will have nutritional deficiencies and a dog eating cat food will have nutritional excesses. Both can be harmful. The obvious thing to do then is feed cats cat food and dogs dog food.

People Food:

Treats or table food should not exceed more than 10% of the pet's total diet. Spicy or fatty foods should not be given to pets; use plain pasta, fruits, vegetables or purchase treats when you want to give your pet a goodie. What our pets really want is time and attention. They would be just as happy with a game of ball, a good brushing or walk in the park (dogs). Cats can also be rewarded with interactive play or even a catnip surprise.

Remember, you are in charge of what your pet eats - not the other way around. Picky eaters are made by us, not born. If you need help choosing a food or have a problem eater, please call us. There is no better preventative health plan than good nutrition.