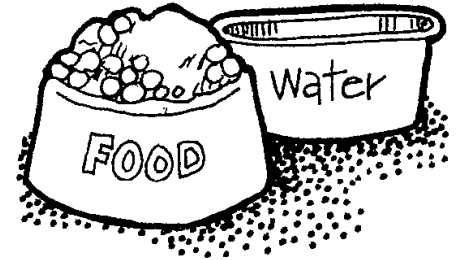


Feeding Your New Cat

CURRENT DIET: _____

Cats can be incredibly “set in their ways” or finicky, so it can be challenging to transition them from one diet to another. Many cats will simply refuse to eat new or unfamiliar food. This can become dangerous because cats have a high nutritional requirement for protein and need to eat every day. If they don’t get regular nourishment, cats can develop a potentially dangerous condition called hepatic lipidosis, or “fatty liver syndrome.” This condition is especially common in overweight cats that suddenly stop eating.



The best technique is to gradually mix the new cat food with the existing diet and slowly increase the percentage of the new food over time. A slow dietary transition will also help the cat’s digestive system adjust to the new food gradually without causing indigestion, vomiting, diarrhea or other gastrointestinal upset.

If you need to transition your cat to a new diet, use the following chart to help you:

- Day 1 and 2:** Mix $\frac{1}{4}$ of the new diet and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the current diet
- Day 3 and 4:** Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ of the new diet and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the current diet
- Day 5 and 6:** Mix $\frac{3}{4}$ of the new diet and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the current diet
- Day 7:** Full amount of the new diet!

**Progress only if your cat continues to eat! If s/he stops eating or has diarrhea or vomit, move back a step & progress more slowly with the diet change. See your vet if s/he doesn’t eat for more than 2 days*

Cats are carnivores (meat-eaters) and should be eating meat exclusively (no corn or fillers). Before selecting a diet be sure to look at the ingredient list, paying particular attention to the first three ingredients- they should be meat or meat meal (not a by-product).

No matter what you feed your cat, do it in moderation. Feed equal measured amounts twice daily to keep your cat from overeating, unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian. Overweight cats are susceptible to developing diabetes, joint problems, and will not be able to move or groom themselves normally- often an owner is left with the job of “bum cleaning” because a fat cat just can’t reach back there! Help your cat stay healthy through a high quality diet and lots of exercise!

