

OBESITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Does your pet have a weight problem? This may be very detrimental to its health; and is responsible for many chronic medical problems.

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH OBESITY INCLUDE:

1. Arthritis, "Slipped Disc", and torn or strained ligaments.
2. Respiratory problems associated with endurance and exercise.
3. Heart problems from overwork.
4. Liver Disease.
5. Dystocia - difficulty in giving birth.
6. Diabetes.
7. Heat Stroke - due to a decreased ability to control heat.
8. Skin problems.
9. Excessive gas and/or constipation.
10. Lowered resistance to disease.
11. Anal gland impaction and infection.
12. Increased risk for anesthesia and surgery.

OBESITY REDUCES YOUR PET'S LIFE SPAN!!! (And also its enjoyment of life!)

CAUSES OF OBESITY:

1. **OVEREATING!!** (90% of all cases.)
2. Lack of exercise.
3. Lowered metabolism.
4. Emotional trauma.
5. Hormonal imbalances.

OBESITY TREATMENT: We are interested in all phases of disease prevention, and will work closely with you to reduce your pet's weight. **However, SUCCESS DEPENDS ON TOTAL COOPERATION!!**

1. Decrease food intake 40% - this means feed about 1/2 the normal amount fed.
2. Spread the total daily ration throughout the day.
Several SMALL feedings are recommended instead of one or two larger meals.
3. Snacks **MUST NOT BE GIVEN!**
One daily pet vitamin is **ALL** that is permissible.
The pet does **NOT** really care about the snack, but rather the attention it gets.
4. Keep the pet **OUT** of the kitchen/dining area at meal times.
NO TABLE SCRAPS. Instead you may try substituting a few pieces of your pet's dry food.
5. Depending on the severity of the weight problem, low calorie commercial diets or even prescription weight loss diets may be recommended.
6. Expect your pet to **LOSE** 1-2 pounds **EACH** week maximum. This will vary between size and breed of your pet. It is not healthy to lose weight too quickly. Weight loss should be monitored closely in order to prevent malnutrition.