Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Dietary Management of Small Animals

Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Objectives

- Discuss the importance of a balanced diet in small animal health
- Discuss problems due to nutritional errors
- Discuss health conditions that respond to dietary management
Nutrition and Disease

- Undernutrition (inadequate, malnutrition, starvation) and overnutrition (overfeeding)
- Nutritional treatment of health conditions
Obesity

- Accumulation of body fat – exceeds needs for optimal function
- Affects health and well-being (a malnutrition)
- Shortens life

Causes
- Overfeeding
- Lack of exercise
- Between feedings – snacks and treats
Bone Disease

- Diet deficient in calcium and phosphorus
- Diet imbalanced in calcium and phosphorus
- Diet deficient in vitamins A and D
- Too much nutrients – formulated diet with supplements
Secondary Hyperparathyroidism

- Diet deficient in calcium
  - Meat only diet
- Excess parathyroid hormone produced
  - Calcium removed from bones
    - Weak, brittle bones
    - Pain
    - Paralysis
Hypervitaminosis

- Diet with excess fat soluble vitamins (A, D, E, K)
  - Stored in fat to toxic levels
  - Vitamin A supplements
  - Liver-rich diets with vitamin A
Vitamin E Deficiency

- Diet with excess polyunsaturated fat
- Diet of spoiled, rancid fish
Vitamin B Deficiency

- Thiamine (vitamin B1) deficiency
  - Feeding cooked foods (heat breaks down thiamine)
  - Feeding raw fish (contains enzyme that breaks down thiamine)
Chronic Renal Failure

- Dietary management
  - Low in protein
  - Low in phosphorus
  - High in fat calories
Diabetes Mellitus

- Dietary Management
  - High in starches
  - High in fiber
Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease

- Dietary Management
  - Food formulation
    - To maintain high urine acid
    - To maintain low magnesium
Congestive Heart Failure

- Dietary Management
  - Low in salt (sodium)
Gastric Dilatation – Volvulus

- Dietary Management
  - Small portions
  - Reduce excitement
Dietary Allergies

Dietary Management

- Elimination diet for 6-8 weeks
  - Diet with ingredients not previously fed
- Give previously fed diet to diagnose
- Make repeated ingredient changes to elimination diet to identify specific protein allergen
Gastrointestinal Diseases

- **Dietary Management**
  - Withhold food for 24-36 hours and feed small portions
    - Highly digestible
    - High quality proteins
    - Moderate fat
Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency

Dietary Management
- Oral supplements
  - Digestive enzymes
  - Vitamins
Feeding Sick Animals

- Sick animals are stressed with high fevers
  - Nutritional requirements increased

- Balanced diet
  - Fresh
  - Easily digestible
  - Small portions
  - Adding water
  - Warming
  - Frequent feedings
  - Vitamin supplements