



VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES



"Nutrition and Management of Dogs, Cats, and Exotic Pets"

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Objectives

- Discuss the importance of small animal nutrition
 - Describe the five major nutrients in foods and why each is important in the diet
- Discuss feeding recommendations for dogs at different life stages
 - Discuss feeding recommendations for cats at different life stages
- Discuss feeding recommendations for exotic pets

The Nutrients

- Essential Food Nutrients Lesson provides details on water and 5 nutrients
 - Carbohydrates, lipids (fats, oils), protein, minerals, vitamins
- Sugars cause diarrhea in adult dogs and cats
- Starches (rice, corn) source of carbohydrates
- Linoleic fatty acid required in diet of dogs
- Linoleic and arachidonic fatty acids required in diet of cats
- Minimum 22% protein required in diet of adult dogs
 - Minimum 32 % protein required in diet of adult cats
- Taurine amino acid required in diet of cats
- Vitamin A required in diet of cats

Feeding Dogs and Cats

- Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO)
 - Validation on package for ingredients and directions
- Neutered dogs and cats require 20-30% less than feeding directions

Feeding Puppies

- 3-4 wks to 3 mos of age (weaned at 6-7 wks)
 - Gruel of dry food or canned food
 - 15-20 minutes, 4 times a day
- 3-8 mos of age
 - Dry or canned food
 - 15 minutes, 3 times a day
 - 8 mos of age to maturity
 - Dry or canned food



Quantity by package directions, 2 times a day

Feeding Adult Dogs

- Maintain lean body condition
- Serious health issues associated with obesity
- Periodically weigh dog to determine steady wt
- Maintenance not high-protein, high-energy diet
- Work, pregnancy, lactation increase energy requirement up to 3 times
 - Increase intake
 - High energy diet





Feeding Older Dogs

- Senior diet low calories, protein, salt
- Special diets kidney and heart failure







- Dog food does not meet diet requirements of cats
- Feed canned, semi-moist, and/or dry food
- Feed free-choice
- Most cats regulate intake
- Maintain lean body condition



- Serious health issues associated with obesity
- Starvation is more serious and faster than dogs
- Feed kittens, adult cats, older cats similar to dogs

Feeding Gerbils

Feed commercial pelleted rodent diet
Supplement of mixed grains and seeds



Feeding Guinea Pigs

- Feed commercial pelleted guinea pig food
- Supplement of fresh cabbage, kale, hay, fruit
- Vitamin C is required in diet



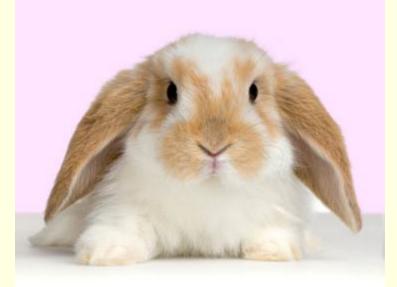
Feeding Hampsters

- Feed commercial pelleted rodent diet
- Supplement of seeds, vegetables, fruit, hay, chopped meat, mealworms, live insects



Feeding Rabbits

- Feed commercial rabbit pellets
- Supplement of hay
- Ingestion of fecal pellets (B vitamins)



Feeding Ferrets

Feed

- Canned, semi-moist and/or dry food
 Dog and/or cat foods
- Commercial ferret chow
- Commercial mink food

