



HOCKING HILLS ANIMAL CLINIC

FEEDING YOUR CAT OR DOG

FEED MEASURED MEALS TWICE A DAY

- Most adult cats and dogs should be fed twice daily. Each of these meals needs to be a measured amount so caloric intake can be properly regulated.
- If you have multiple pets, each will require an individual separate bowl.

TRANSITIONING FROM FREE CHOICE FEEDING

- For the first feeding of the day, offer the food and allow 5 or 10 minutes for your pet(s) to eat. Any food not consumed should be removed and nothing offered again until the next scheduled meal. It may require a few days, but nearly all cats and dogs will quickly learn to eat when the food is offered.
- If you have only one pet, you may elect to leave each meal down and allow your pet to consume it throughout the day as he or she wishes. However, it still needs to be a measured amount and the total daily calories observed.
- In other words, don't simply refill the bowl as it empties! Measure meals.
- Significant harm may result if your pet doesn't eat, including life-threatening liver disease in cats. **Return to free choice feeding until you can consult our clinic if attempts at meal feeding are preventing your pet from eating.**

HOW MUCH SHOULD I BE FEEDING?

- The calorie content from one brand of food to another can vary significantly. Use the general guidelines on the bag or can for a reference point. Use your pet's body condition to increase or decrease volumes as needed.
- Specific recommendations:

DRY OR CANNED?

- Unless otherwise recommended, you may feed either dry or canned food. Regardless of type of food, the total calories should be controlled.
- For cats, it can be an advantage to feed canned since, in general, it will be higher in protein and fat and lower in carbohydrates. Low-carb diets may reduce your cat's risk of diabetes. To some extent this is true for dogs as well.

WATER SHOULD BE UNRESTRICTED

- Be sure water is available at all times.