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Diet & Nutrition

Puppies and Kittens should be offered a nutritionally balanced diet several times during the day. There are a wide variety of puppy or kitten formulated diets available at local pet stores in both dry and canned options. Choose a name brand food (not Publix brand or Walmart Old Roy brand) that your puppy or kitten willingly eats when offered. You should not have to force feed your pet.

Anytime you make a change to the diet, the new diet should be mixed with the old diet and the animal should be gradually transitioned to the new food over the span of a week. During the transition period, owners should pay attention to appetite and any signs of GI distress (vomiting and diarrhea) that might indicate intolerance to the new diet. If these symptoms occur, return to the old diet. **DO NOT TRANSITION TO ANOTHER NEW DIET** without the appetite returning and the GI signs resolving.

Juvenile animals should be transitioned to adult formula diets around 9-12 months of age.

Some owners insist on preparing **home cooked diets**. Many home cooked diets are not nutritionally complete without the right combination of ingredients and supplements.

www.balanceit.com is a great resource for properly prepared home meals.

Raw diets are NOT RECOMMENDED for domesticated animals. The same warnings that apply to people also apply to pets consuming raw diets. Animals consuming raw diets and the people preparing them can be exposed to severe GI illness from *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*, both responsible for food poisoning.

Sometimes the veterinarian will recommend a **prescription diet** to treat a diagnosed medical condition. These diets are specifically formulated to assist in management and resolution of these medical conditions. For best outcome, doctor diet recommendations should be followed. Some prescription diets are temporary, while others are intended to be lifelong.

Juvenile Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar)

This can be a serious problem of young puppies and kittens, especially during the first week after they come home. Recognizing this problem and seeking **IMMEDIATE veterinary attention** can potentially save the animal's life. Symptoms of hypoglycemia include lethargy, decreased appetite, nausea and vomiting, wobbling when standing, and seizures.

Table Scraps should not be offered to pets. Not only does it encourage begging behavior at the table why you are eating, many human foods that we enjoy can cause life threatening conditions in our pets. Vomiting, diarrhea, pancreatitis, obesity and dog food aversion can result from pets receiving table scraps.

10 OF THE MOST DANGEROUS FOODS FOR DOGS

(THAT CAN BE TOXIC OR FATAL IF INGESTED)

1 ALCOHOL



2 AVOCADOS

3 CHOCOLATE



4 COFFEE AND CAFFEINE

5 FRUIT WITH PITS/SEEDS

6 GRAPES AND RAISINS



7 MACADAMIA NUTS

8 ONIONS AND GARLIC



9 XYLITOL (ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER)

10 YEAST DOUGH

Also, avoid giving your dog bones that can splinter and cause internal injuries to their intestines (such as chicken or pork chop bones).

If you suspect your pet has eaten any of the following foods then contact your veterinarian immediately or the ASPCA Poison Hotline at: #1-888-426-4435 (a \$65 consultation fee may be applied)