

Food for Thought

Flanary Veterinary Clinic (270) 898-9738
www.flanaryvet.com

The Right Food for Your Pet

With a wide variety of pet foods available these days, how do you choose the right one for your pet? There is as big of a difference in quality of foods as there is between a hot dog and filet mignon.

Dogs and cats cannot survive if only fed all meat for a lengthy period of time. Their diets must be balanced right to give them the best nutrition. A pet's age and weight also play an important part in what to feed. The phrase "you get what you pay for" holds true when it comes to pet food. Higher priced foods are going to be higher in quality and in turn, the cheapest foods are going to have the least quality ingredients.

Higher quality foods have a higher nutritive value; therefore you will actually purchase less food. Pets must eat more low quality food to meet their nutritional needs. Pets fed higher quality foods also will have less stool elimination.

Dogs and cats that are fed a high quality food such as Science Diet, Eukanuba, or Iams generally live healthier and longer lives. These foods are balanced fortified with vitamins and minerals. Their high quality antioxidants give dogs and cats healthy immune systems. They also have omega fatty acids for a shiny coat.

Also, if your pet has been diagnosed with a disease, it may require a prescription diet. Prescription diets are formulated to treat certain diseases just like medicine. Having bloodwork done on your pet can also determine if he or she requires a prescription diet, whether it is for liver disease, kidney disease or diabetes.

Talk with us at the Flanary Vet Clinic to help get your pet on the right food.

Treat Your Pet Right

Treats can play an important part in your pet's health. Here some of the most common treats on the chart to the right with fat grams and calories listed. Bulter Lean Treats are also available at the Flanary Vet Clinic. These treats are made of skinless chicken, only have 7 calories, and are low in fat. For only \$1.99 your dogs will love these bite size nutritious treats!

Treat	Fat (g)	Calories
Milkbone	.3	17
Beggin Strips	.6	29
Snausages	.6	17
Meaty Bone (medium)	1.8	64
Science Diet Light Treats	.3	14
Pounce Cat Treats	.13	3.7
Whisker Lickin's Cat Treats	.12	3.

Off the Table

With holiday parties starting soon, the temptation to include your pet in the holiday fun and food may send your cat or dog to spend the holidays at the vet clinic.

Feeding people food to your dog or cat is not a good choice. When your pet is fed consistently the same food at the same times every day, they are less likely to develop stomach upset, and are less finicky. Sudden changes in their diets even in small amounts, such as one small bite of ham or turkey, can cause vomiting and /or diarrhea. *Some people food, especially fatty ones, can easily trigger a possibly fatal pancreatitis, Dr. Flanary always gives a 50/50 chance of survival!*

So remember, to remind your guests at your holiday parties not to feed your pets from the table. Make sure scraps are disposed of properly and not left where pet can find them. Should your pet develop signs of stomach upset, such as vomiting or diarrhea, call the Flanary Vet Clinic at 898-9738.

No Bones About It

Bones have been thrown to the dogs as long as dogs have been man's best friend. Some dogs may never have a problem chewing on bones. However, many problems can arise, and for some, it may be too late by the time your dog shows any signs.

Most people have heard that chicken bones splinter and shouldn't be given to dogs, but other bones can cause just as much harm. Bones are not easily digested and usually pass through the stool, which can lead to constipation and impaction of the intestines. Fragments and splinters from bones can also easily perforate the intestinal tract. This can lead to peritonitis and death.

Bones also commonly get lodged in the roof of a dog's mouth or throat, which causes damage that leads to severe infections. Choking is another common and many times fatal problem if dogs are allowed to chew on bones.

If your pet has chewed on a bone, watch for these signs: bloody diarrhea, vomiting, straining to go to the bathroom, pawing at the mouth, breathing difficulties or lack of appetite. If any of these signs begin, please call our clinic immediately.

So are any bones safe for dogs? Yes, commercial ones. Dogs should only be allowed to chew on "bones" designed for dogs, such as Dentabones or CET chews. Dentabones and CET chews are easily digested, help clean your dog's teeth, and are a safer choice, but should still be given in moderation.

Although rawhides are a very popular commercial bone, your dog should be watched closely if chewing on rawhide bones. Small pieces chewed off can still cause choking or constipation if swallowed. We have seen this many times.

So even though it may be tempting to toss your begging canine a bone, take it from the professionals who see the unfortunate outcomes and don't.

