

Feeding Your Pet

When you first take your puppy or kitten home, it is a good idea to stick to the feeding regime that they are used to. This is in order to smooth the transition from breeders to new owners. In the longer term all a puppy or kitten needs is a good quality complete food. Diets designed by breeders are often complicated, time consuming and not always balanced. For this reason we advise you feed your pet a complete balanced food such as Hills.

To change from the original diet to the new one, you should gradually introduce the new diet each day, by increasing the new one gradually, whilst at the same time the old one is being reduced. After a week or so of doing this your pet should be eating the new complete diet happily. It is essential to feed a food that is matched to your pet at each stage of its life. The table below outlines a good feeding regime.

Age	Diet	Frequency
8 - 12 weeks	Hills puppy/kitten growth	4 times daily
16 weeks	Hills puppy/kitten growth	3 times daily
5 - 12 months	Hills puppy/kitten growth	Twice daily
1 - 6 years	Hills canine/feline adult	Twice daily
7 years +	Hills canine/feline senior	Twice daily

Dogs who will have an adult weight of more than 25kg should be feed a large breed diet throughout their lives.

Pets should not have their food left down all day as this encourages snacking behaviour and obesity. Also on hot summer day's food can become stale or contaminated. In order to prevent this the food should be offered for 10-15 minutes only. If in this time the food is not eaten, then it should be taken away and placed in a refrigerator or disposed of. Your pet will soon learn that food is only available at certain times of the day, and only for short periods of time.

If you have any questions regarding feeding please ask our nurses for advice.

If you would like to make an appointment or require further information please contact us at Brayton 01757 705562 or Sherburn-in-Elmet 01977 684952.