



KILLING WITH KINDNESS

A good diet can make a big difference in the overall health of your pets. A recent study by the National Research Council showed that over one quarter of the dogs and cats in the United States are overweight. It is no wonder with the many tasty sounding treats in the store, and let's not forget those big brown pleading eyes watching you at dinner time that so many pets are way above their ideal weight. A good quality food fed in the correct amount is really all that is needed to keep your pet in good health. The wrong kind or too much food, or treats, can lead to a variety of problems, including skin and allergy problems, and in some pets— intestinal upset including diarrhea and even pancreatitis. Even the smallest treat such as ham or BBQ can set a pet into a life-threatening intestinal disorder. So many of the treats and foods sold in the store are full of dyes and preservatives, that lead to skin problems so many pets suffer from. If your pet is still scratching even after you have treated him for fleas, or chewing on his feet, it is a good chance that it may be the food or treats you are giving. There are many quality foods tailored to each individual pet's needs, whether a regular maintenance plan, puppy growth formulas, to more special needs such as diabetic, sensitive skins and stomachs, liver and kidney diets and, of course, the reducing diets for overweight pets. Healthy treats in moderation such as baby carrots and other veggies are great for your pets. Dog and cat foods are much more palatable than they used to be. Repeat sales of pet foods are dependent on the pets liking what they are eating. Typically, palatability has nothing to do with the quality or better nutrition. Food that tastes better may not necessarily be better for them. There is no one good diet for every pet. Your veterinarian can help select the correct diet and the amount of exercise for your pets throughout their lives. Each pet and their lifestyle is unique and must be individually considered, especially as problems emerge as they age. Remember good quality pet food in proper quantity, that is individually considered, will add years of good health to your pets life.

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