WYNTERS SCRATCHING POST -
OCTOBER

HEBRON
CAT HOSPITAL

Issue No. 21

What to feed my cat?

For normal, healthy cats, over the counter diets are adequate. You'll often feed depending on life stage: Mother's Milk/Kitten Milk Replacement (0-2 months) Kitten (2-12 months), Adult (1-6 years) Senior/Mature (7-13 years) Geriatric (14+ years). Cats need special nutrition as they're growing, as their activity levels transition and they're aging. We do caution against feeding grain-free diets; there aren't published studies as of yet, but we have seen a number of cats develop urinary crystals while eating these diets exclusively.

WHEN OVER-THE-COUNTER DIETS MAY NOT BE ENOUGH

In some cases, an over-the-counter diet is not enough. Some cats will have food allergies or intolerances, or an underlying disease which necessitates a special diet or prescription diet. Certain breeds are predisposed to different health conditions and sometimes aging alone can cause issues.

THE VALUE OF PRESCRIPTION DIETS

While prescription diets are not cheap, they do provide particular health benefits for cats who need them. For example, the urinary diets are designed to prevent lower phosphorus, extra potassium, high-quality protein and other nutrients to reduce the kidneys' workload, slow disease progression, and minimize dangerous toxin buildup.

SUPPORT BEYOND THE BOWL

Sometimes prescription diets can help your cat avoid taking any medications by mouth, which, as we know, some cats do not like taking.

MAKING A SMOOTH DIET TRANSITION

If you are needing to switch diets, slow transitions are usually recommended.

You can start adding the new food to the old food and fully transition after 7-10 days.

Having your cat examined and evaluated is best to ensure you're feeding the right diet. Have questions about what your cat is eating? That's what we're here for! Ask us during your cat's next appointment!



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