



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2011

JANUARY/FEBRUARY



Contact your vet if
you see.....

- Changes in behavior
- interaction
- activity
- food or water intake
- vocalization
- "potty" habits
- weight loss or gain
- grooming habits
- sleeping habits
- bad breath

Early intervention is life saving.

❁ Feeding a Clowder ❁

BY DUKE

Most of our clients have multiple cats (a clowder). This may require a *special diet* for an individual due to age, health or weight. The goal is to develop a feeding strategy that puts no one at risk and has a base diet available to all cats at least twice daily. Each cat must be evaluated for personality (shy, aggressive), social status and physical ability (arthritic, obese) as well as illness and age. The chosen base diet must not harm the most fragile cat (i.e. the cat with kidney disease, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease etc.)



Most prescription diets will not harm healthy adult cats so the easiest approach is to choose the diet for the ill or fragile cat. Exceptions are the kitten that *should not* be protein restricted and the obese cat that *should be* calorie restricted. In these cases separate feeding is needed. The counter is good for the agile young cat (or a separate room) and a food box can be constructed so the fat cat will not be able to enter. (or get stuck trying!)

Feeding a special diet is always a trial based on clinical results. Is the cat eating the food? Is there weight gain or loss? Are lab values improving? The best diet may not be the same for all cats with kidney disease or other conditions. *Ask for help in formulating a safe diet plan for all your kitties at your next visit.*



Kitty Feeding Facts

Cats are obligate carnivores and must have adequate protein and amino acids provided by meat in their diet. They are lone hunters and eat numerous small meals a day in the wild. Cats require about 50 kcal per kg body wt. per day. (based on ideal weight). 10-15 pieces of most dry foods contain 30-35 kcal so the ever full bowl is

an invitation to obesity. A mouse is about 35 kcal thus the all day hunting and grazing behavior. The physical feel, taste, odor and warmth of food is important to the cat. (cats lack the gene for sweet tastes). The best source of metabolic energy for cats is protein (for humans it is carbohydrates and for dogs it is fat.) Modern diets are formulated for the nutritional needs of the cat but attention must be paid to calorie content and individual considerations due to age and illness.

Thanks to Ayanna Spradley for demonstrating the proper feline hunting technique! Come get a bag of Royal Canin that fits your needs. (mouse flavor?)

➤ **Help Support Cat Health
Research** ⚡

***Winn Feline Foundation since
1968***

*Donate as little as \$1.00 when you check out to
make a difference in Feline Research.*

**[Thank you from Duke and Johnny
winnfelinehealth.org](http://winnfelinehealth.org)**



Leaving town? Doctor supervised
boarding available 365 days a year.