



MAY 2018



PET NUTRITION MONTH

**PET NUTRITION**

Nutrition is important to your pets' health. It is important to learn what your pet needs to stay healthy, happy and active. Making sure your pet eats what he should and not what he wants is the best way to ensure these needs.

**What's the importance of good nutrition?**

A complete and balanced diet is essential to maintain your pet in good health. He needs fresh water, protein, fats, minerals, vitamins and carbohydrates.

Water is by far the most

important nutrition your pet requires. An adult dogs' body is 60% water and even higher in puppies (84%), it is understandable then that as little as 10% loss of body water can cause serious problems. Make sure that your pet receives 2.5 times the amount of food as water, but often it is just



HILLS DIET RAFFLE

easier to offer the water free choice.

Protein is a very important part of your pets' diet. Proteins

come in different qualities, animal proteins have the highest quality and vegetables have the lower qualities.

Considering that dogs are mostly carnivorous, they require



WIN!!!!!!

BEWARE OF FOXTAIL SEASON!

rule of thumb: Always make sure to feed your pet food that is made for his species, age and energy requirements.

**Fats**

They are an essential part of your pets diet, they are extremely high in energy as compared to carbohydrates.

Fats are readily available from both plant and animal products. Some fats can

be synthesized by the

body, and some cannot. Despite their importance in food, there are many problems associated with over consumption of fats. The proper balance must be attained for your pet to be as healthy as possible

Minerals and Vitamins Minerals are important for nerve conduction, proteins, fats and carbohydrates are necessary for energy. Vitamins are important to help your pet process bio-chemicals.

**Why Shouldn't I give my pet table scraps?**

a much higher level of protein than we do for example. Cats are completely carnivorous and require even higher amounts compared to dogs. It is said that dogs can eat cat food but that cats cannot eat dog food. This is because the protein taurine is not synthesized by cats, whereas it is in dogs. A

Carbohydrates Are part of the nutritional requirements for your pet, however these are much easier to give in excess than any other form of nutrition. Normal dry pet food contains between 30-70% carbohydrates as they are a cheaper form of nutrition. In some pets, the surplus energy will be stored as fat, and obesity can occur. Take care to provide what is needed to your pet, preferably before weight gain occurs, as weight loss is much more difficult to achieve.

### **Why shouldn't I give my pet table scraps?**

Table scraps do not offer the nutrition that they need. The more you give them human food the less likely he/she is to eat their own. Your pet will get less of the vitamins and minerals he needs and probably more of those he does not need. Table scraps are also the quickest route to weight problems, even worse it can lead to your pet becoming a picky eater. Breaking your pet of the habit is difficult.

Treats are better than table scraps because they have the nutrition your pet needs to maintain his health.

They also encourage good behavior, as treats are usually given as a reward.

We offer Hills, Royal Canin and Purina

### **Foods to avoid:**

Chocolate, coffee, tea, citrus extracts, dairy products, onions, garlic, sugar, especially no bones that splinter easily, and

keep your pet away from high-fat, greasy foods.

**IT'S PET NUTRITION MONTH!**  
Purchase any of our canine or feline HILLS diets and be automatically entered in our raffle to receive a gift basket full of goodies.  
**ENTER TODAY!**



### **FOXTAIL SEASON**

It's ALMOST summer, which means that it's time for warmer temps and later sunsets. Unfortunately, that also means it's foxtail season for pets and veterinarians. Foxtails, a weed with a barbed, hardened end, are extremely common and a hazard for dogs and outdoor cats, often getting inhaled or lodged in the skin.

Foxtails often enter the nostrils while dogs sniff around outside. Air flow through the nostrils can cause the foxtail to travel through

the nasal passages, causing pain and possible infection.

Sneezing, bloody discharge, and pawing at the

nose may be a sign that your dog has inhaled a foxtail. Foxtails can go on similar journeys through the ear canals.

A dog with a foxtail in the ear will often act the same way as a dog

with an ear infection, shaking the head or pawing at the ear. It can possibly cause an infection, so there might also be an odor or redness.



Treating a foxtail in the nose or ear requires a veterinarian to first sedate the animal and then use a small scope to explore the ear canals or nasal passages. Once the offending foxtail is found, it can be removed.

You can take steps to avoid foxtail issues by removing any that are growing in your yard, but with foxtails so prevalent in neighborhood parks and open spaces, it's difficult to avoid them completely.



*Thank you for entrusting us with your Furry, Four-legged, Family Members, CPH*

