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What is the correct diet for my pet?

Unlike the pictures above, your pet does need a complete balanced diet! What your dog or cat needs in terms of a complete diet will vary depending on a number of factors.

A good quality, complete, life stage diet is the best for your pet. We would advise this food to be dry as it is easier to store and handle as well as having some benefits with regard to your pets dental health. Some dry foods can cause urinary crystals leading to male cats bladder becoming blocked - a serious, life-threatening condition - but some foods are tailored to avoid this. Speak to one of the nursing team for more details. It is important to ensure the food you choose is good quality as it means that the food will be properly balanced to give the nutrition your pet needs. With the lesser quality foods the contents can vary wildly, they do not need any fixed formula. This can lead to stomach upsets between bags in dogs and cats with sensitive stomachs. They also tend to be much higher in fats as this is cheaper to produce.

When buying food for dogs - the size they will reach when fully grown is an important factor to take into consideration. Large breed dogs take much longer to reach their full adult size, use generally less energy for their size and have smaller digestive tracts, meaning there is a need for the food to be high in energy so they can be fed in smaller meals.

Puppy and kitten food is much higher in energy than adult foods. This ensures that they have all the energy they need to grow and stay active and healthy. It also ensures they get the correct vitamin and mineral balance.

Once adulthood is reached, your pet needs a balanced nutrition to maintain a healthy weight and with all the vitamins and minerals they need. How much energy is required will depend on factors including the amount of exercise they get and if they are neutered. Neutered pet foods are very good as they help maintain a healthy weight and reduce the risk of obesity.

Senior animals need a lower protein food that is made to support their vital organs that can reduce in efficiency as they age.

For any further advice on diet please feel free to contact the nursing team and we can discuss diets, amounts and things to consider.

**If you need any other information or wish to discuss any of the issues here further, please contact one of the nursing team at the Vale Veterinary Group Ltd, Kidderminster
01562 822692**