

The 6 Essentials Your Pets Diet Needs!



WATER

Fresh, clean water should be available to your pet at all times. Water accounts for 60 - 70% of your adult pet's body weight and even a 10% decrease in the level of water in your pet's body can cause serious illness or death. Water intake is especially important for cats.

PROTEINS

Your pet can obtain protein from animal sources (chicken, beef, pork, fish, egg), vegetables (potato), and grains (corn, oats). It is important to consider not only the source of the protein but the quality of the protein. Proteins are made up of amino acids. Essential amino acids cannot be produced by your pet's body in sufficient quantities and must be supplied by your pet's diet (e.g. arginine, methionine). Cats also require an additional essential amino acid called taurine in their diets.

FATS

Fat is necessary not only as an energy source, but also as a critical element in the production of hormones, the structure of cells and the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins. The balance between omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids can affect the degree of inflammatory reactions that occur in the skin (allergies), joints (arthritis), intestines (inflammatory bowel disease) or even kidneys (progressive renal failure). Essential fatty acids (EFA's) must be provided by your pet's diet since dogs and cats are unable to produce sufficient quantities. Linoleic acid is an essential fatty acid for both dogs and cats, while arachidonic acid is essential for cats only.

CARBOHYDRATES

Carbohydrates include a large group of nutrients such as sugars (e.g. glucose), starches, and fibers. Carbohydrates provide energy for the body's tissues and can play an important role in regulating the health of the intestine.

VITAMINS

Vitamins are essential in small amounts for the normal growth and activity of the entire body. Since most vitamins cannot be produced in the body, your pet's diet must be formulated to provide these at the appropriate levels.

MINERALS

Calcium and phosphorus are important minerals for the development and maintenance of bones and teeth. It is important to match the mineral content of your pet's diet to the age and medical condition of your pet (e.g. more calcium is required during growth; less phosphorus is recommended for pets with kidney disease). Your pet's diet must be balanced to contain the appropriate minerals, in the correct quantities and ratios.



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