

Overweight Pets

PVMA FACT SHEET

Obesity in our pets is a serious health issue. Sometimes we give our pets treats just because we love them. We may even give them some of our food or make sure that they never have an empty food bowl. But those extra pounds place an extra burden on your pet's organs, joints and ligaments.



Health Risks for the Overweight Pet

- Diabetes
- Skeletal stress, including damage to joints, bones, and ligaments
- Respiratory problems, increased blood pressure, and heart disease
- Decreased stamina and heat intolerance
- Decreased liver function
- Digestive disorders
- Decreased immune function
- Skin and hair coat problems
- Increased risk of cancer
- Urinary tract infections
- Decreased quality and length of life

How to Prevent Obesity

- Encourage exercise.
- Choose the correct type and amount of food. Your veterinarian can help you choose the right food for your pet.
- Regularly monitor the pet's weight.
- Limit or eliminate treats. Treats should be given sparingly and should not make up more than 10% of your pet's daily calories.
- Treat any medical problems or diseases.



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