

How Much To Feed Your Furry Friend

If you've ever wondered about the recommended feeding guidelines for your dog, you're not alone. The plethora of calculators and guides available, whether online or on pet food packages, often leave pet owners confused. Here's the truth: a significant portion of these recommendations may lead to overfeeding, and there are reasons behind it.

Understanding the Overfeeding Dilemma:

Many calculators and guides may suggest feeding more than necessary, and there's a simple explanation—they want you to buy more, sooner. Pet food companies, driven by sales and profits, may not always have your pet's best interests in mind.

Even laboratory analyses of popular pet food brands have revealed discrepancies. Calories in the product could be up to 20% higher than stated, and feeding recommendations might surpass your pet's actual needs by 25%. This excess can contribute to the rising issue of pet obesity.

Calculating the Right Amount:

So, how do you determine the proper amount to feed your pet? Follow these tips to ensure you're providing an appropriate and healthy quantity of food:

1. Caloric Guidelines:

- Dogs weighing 0-50lbs: 200 calories per 10 pounds of body weight.
- Dogs weighing 51-75lbs: 175 calories per 10 pounds of body weight.
- Dogs weighing 76-110lbs: 150 calories per 10 pounds of body weight.
- Dogs weighing 111lbs and above: 100 calories per 10 pounds of body weight.

(Note: Check the pet food packaging or website for calorie information, usually listed as "kcal.")

2. Understanding Caloric Needs:

- Larger breed dogs have slower metabolisms, requiring fewer calories per pound than smaller breeds.

3. Additional Factors to Consider:

- Age: Puppies need about 25% more calories than adults, while seniors need about 15% fewer.
- Spaying or Neutering: Fixed pets have lower metabolisms; adjust calories accordingly.
- Weight Goals: Adjust caloric intake by 10% for weight gain or loss.
- Activity Level: Caloric needs vary based on activity—decrease by 10% for inactive pets and increase by 10-25% for active ones.
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Example Calculation for Harley:

- Harley, a 22lb terrier, requires 396kcal/day based on her weight, age, activity level, and spaying status.

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Remember, overfeeding can lead to digestive issues, so monitor your pet's stool and adjust accordingly. If your pet's caloric needs seem significantly different from the average, consult with a veterinarian to rule out any underlying health issues.

In summary, understanding your dog's unique needs is essential for their health and well-being. Understanding the various factors that contribute to caloric needs will help you make sure that you are feeding your pet what they need, not what a marketing company wants them to eat.