



**Officer Vet**

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# FEEDING YOUR CAT

## **What should I feed my new kitten?**

The first rule about feeding kittens is that there shouldn't be a sudden change to the diet. New foods can cause diarrhoea and so you will need to add them in gradually over a five day period.

It is important that kittens are fed a kitten food until approximately twelve months of age. Their nutritional needs while growing are very specific, and an adult cat food will not supply an adequate balance of nutrients, potentially causing deficiencies and disease. There are some fantastic commercial kitten foods available, and anything with the words "complete and balanced" written somewhere on the label will have everything in it that your kitten needs.

## **Does my kitten need to be fed milk?**

After they have been weaned from their mother, kittens do not have a nutritional requirement for milk. Most cats have trouble digesting cow's milk and it can cause diarrhoea. If you would like to give your kitten some milk as a treat that is fine, but make sure that you purchase the low lactose pet milk.

## **What should I feed my cat?**

Cats have very specific nutritional needs depending on their age and state of health.

- Kittens – Kitten food until 12 months of age
- 1 to 7 years – Adult cat food
- Lactating queens – Kitten food
- Prone to obesity – Low calorie food
- Cats over 7 years – Senior diet
- Health problems – A range of prescription diets are available

Whatever your cat's life stage it is important to check on the packaging of the food that it mentions the words "complete and balanced".

## **Should I feed my cat dry or tinned food?**

This comes down to personal choice.

Dry food is usually the easier and cheaper option, and as long as it is a balanced food there is nothing wrong

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with feeding your cat only dry food. Some people prefer tinned and some give a combination of the two. Either way is fine.

### **Dental Care**

Bones are important for the care of your cat's teeth. A raw chicken wing given once a week is ideal. Never give your cat cooked bones to chew on.

### **My cat eats the dog's food – is this a problem?**

If your cat is being fed with a good, balanced cat food and is just having the occasional snack of dog food then this is fine. However cats have different needs to dogs, and if they are fed with only dog food they will develop serious nutritional deficiencies.

### **My cat will not eat anything else but meat**

This is definitely a big problem for the cat's health. Cats can become addicted to certain types of food and will literally not touch anything else. This is fine if the food is a balanced commercial diet, but if the obsession is for meat this is something you will need to change. Foods such as liver or roo mince are the typical things that cat's can become addicted to.

Of course, cats also need access to fresh water. If you have any questions regarding feeding your cat please contact the clinic.



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