



DID YOU KNOW?

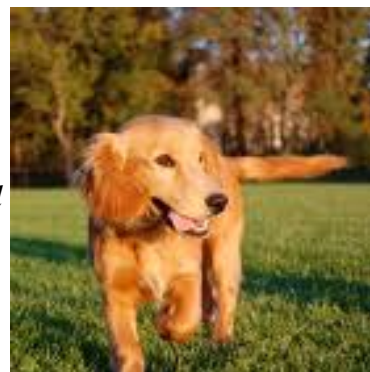


Vaccination Protocols — Pet vaccination is a medical decision and a procedure that should be individualized based on the age, health, and lifestyle of a single animal. *The conclusion that annual vaccinations generally are unnecessary—except in the case of a one-year rabies vaccine—has been confirmed.* The recommendation remains that the *full puppy or kitten series* be given followed by a booster at one year and after that re-vaccination of adult dogs and cats can occur only at three-year intervals and generally will not be needed after 10-yrs. old. Talk with your own veterinarian.

Healthy Weight — How do I know if my pet is overweight? Can you feel your pet’s ribs with your fingers? *Ribs should not be visible but you should be able to feel them.* We are responsible for our pet’s weight and yet...obesity is considered the most common nutritional disorder in dogs and cats. As with us humans, it is increasing as a health issue and is described as the deadliest of diseases and also the most preventable. In general, their weight is a factor of “too much food and too little exercise.” It can also be that the quality and proportion of ingredients in their food isn’t what they need. Educate yourself about reading pet food labels!

Pet Nutrition — *Using poor quality, un-digestible protein sources and fillers that provide little nutrition are common ways to lower the cost and the nutritional value of pet food.* Read the ingredient labels. By-products do not offer quality, digestible protein. Don’t be fooled by a high percentage of protein if it comes from by-products. Most of that cannot be utilized by your pet’s body. You and your pet will both pay for it at the vet’s!

With cat food, a first ingredient of “meat by-products” followed by three grains won’t provide enough protein for your carnivorous (meat-eating) cat. Your cat will eat more, get less nutrition but likely gain weight. *Cats should have more than 30% meat or fish protein—not meat by-products, corn or wheat—in their diet.* A high-protein canned food may be a good solution if a high-quality dry is too pricey. Generally when buying pet food, the caution that “you get what you pay for” does apply. A quality diet will pay off in the overall health and weight management of your pet.



Animal welfare dictionary — kill & no-kill shelters. What is the difference? Let’s look behind the labels. An animal control or public shelter is tax-supported and has an open-door policy—accepting all animals that are brought to them. They *must euthanize* (kill) some animals because there aren’t homes for them all. A private shelter that identifies itself as no-kill can only maintain that status by having a closed-door policy. As a private entity, they *may say “no”* to animals they don’t have space for. The difference in kill and no-kill is in controlling the number of animals coming in. Instead of kill and no-kill shelters, why not say open and closed-door shelters?

Animal welfare quote — “Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind.” **Albert Schweitzer**