

Hospital for Small Animals

Fit for Life: The Nutrition Advice Service



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

Free Nutrition Advice Service available to clients

Importance of nutrition for your pet's health

A healthy pet is a happy pet and nothing is more important than food, providing fuel and nutrients so that your best friend can grow and enjoy life. Your pet's nutritional requirements will continue to change during their life stages.

We can provide tailored nutrition advice to ensure that your pet is receiving the most appropriate diet for its life stage.

If your pet has been diagnosed with a particular condition by one of our veterinary surgeons, there may be some specific nutritional requirements to aid in recovery, slow disease progression or prevent recurrence. In some cases it is possible to completely control a disease condition using dietary management alone without the addition of prescription medication.

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Nutrition advice to support recovery from illness

There are many examples of how nutrition can help manage serious medical conditions of cats and dogs. Bladder stones can be formed in the urine of both dogs and cats and can take many different forms. Some are so severe that they have to be surgically removed and pets will be at risk of re-forming them unless appropriate dietary management is provided. Other stones can be dissolved within the pet's bladder to allow safe passage through the urine simply by feeding a specialist diet which ensures urine is always produced of a certain pH.

Pets who have undergone surgery have a higher demand for calories during their recovery to allow tissues to heal and there are particular requirements for minerals during bone healing. The provision of a high biological value protein source to allow for easy digestion, absorption and utilisation for energy is essential especially when muscle repair is required. This is particularly important when muscle growth is required around a joint to aid stabilisation and comfort to allow your pet to exercise.

A nutritional management plan will aid to reduce clinical signs and associated complications of disease, therefore not only increasing life expectancy, but improving the quality of your pet's life.



Bespoke nutrition advice

With the huge selection available to you on the pet food retail market, choosing the ideal food for your pet can be challenging. Making sense of the ingredient labels to ensure the product is correct for your individual pet is often a complex process. Advancements in science relating to nutrition has led to a variety of prescription veterinary diets each with a fixed formula proven to complement the treatment of a specific disease in dogs and cats.

As a client who has been referred to one of our specialist veterinary surgeons, you have privileged access to our nutrition advice service once your pet has been assessed by one of our veterinary clinicians.

Here at the Dick Vet, we have a dedicated nutrition veterinary nurse, Susan Campbell, who will meet with you and your pet and together formulate a nutrition plan to ensure you pet is Fit For Life.

Susan is registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and has gained several qualifications in addition to being a veterinary nurse, including a diploma in advanced medical veterinary nursing.

Consultations are free of charge and are available to book at reception 0131 650 7650. Often additional time can be booked to discuss nutrition at the time your pet is discharged from hospital by one of our specialist services or discussed at your consultation appointment.

Susan can also be contacted by email: **petnut@exseed.ed.ac.uk**

The provision of the nutritional advice service is made free to clients through sponsorship of nutrition nurse post from Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc.

Food for thought – with advances in medical science there are advances in nutritional treatments. If there is evidence for a nutritional plan for health, we can help you implement this at home with your pet, supporting you to keep your pet Fit for Life.



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1. Veterinary Teaching Building
2. Community Garden
3. **The Hospital for Small Animals and Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre**
4. The Bumstead Building
5. Campus Service Centre

6. The Roslin Institute
7. The Greenwood Building
8. Campus Hub and Roslin Innovation Centre
9. Farm Animal Practice
10. Equine Hospital and Practice
11. Farm Animal Hospital

The Power of Three: The unique offering of Excellence in Clinical, Teaching and Research make up the three pillars of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

As part of The University of Edinburgh, the Hospital for Small Animals is a not-for-profit organisation.