

Gilbert St Gossip

Is your pet a bit portly?

Is your canine companion a couch potato or your feline friend a bit flabby? Your pet is not alone as **more than 50% of our pets are overweight**. Carrying a few extra kilos puts our pets at risk of heart disease, respiratory disorders, osteoarthritis and diabetes. The scary thing is that most people aren't even aware that their pet is overweight.

Watch out for: When you look down from above, your pet will have lost definition of his waist. Instead of an hourglass figure he might look more like an egg, or even a barrel on legs! You can no longer 'easily' feel his ribs when you run your hands over his sides



A very obese pet may have neck fat, a pendulous tummy as well as fat over the hips

The very best way to determine whether your pet is overweight is to drop in for a weight check with us.

This will allow us to score your pet's body condition and, if necessary, start a weight management plan.

Getting your pet to lose weight is easier than you think! Physical exercise will help but it is crucial you are feeding your pet the correct diet and the right amount - something we can help you out with. There are diets available that

will *actually* help your pet lose weight - including one to increase your pet's metabolic rate .

Don't be tempted!

It might be tempting to feed your pet human scraps as a treat but you may be doing them harm and causing excessive weight gain. Keep this calorie translator in mind when you are having trouble saying 'no' to those adorable eyes!

For a 10kg dog:

One biscuit = 1 hamburger for a human
30g piece of cheese = 1.5 hamburgers for a human
One hot dog = 2.5 hamburgers for a human

For a 5kg cat:

One potato chip = ½ a hamburger for a human
30g piece cheese = 2.5 hamburgers for a human
A glass of milk = 3 hamburgers for a human!

Drop in at any time and we'll weigh your pet. We'll also advise you on treats that are suitable for your pet and are light on calories.

Remember, when it comes to fighting the flab, we are here to help.



Recognize heart disease!

Heart disease tends to sneak up on pets and clinical signs might not appear until your pet is in serious trouble. Knowing the signs of heart disease and starting treatment early can make a big difference to your pet's quality of life and longevity.

Look out for these signs—In both dogs and cats:

Laboured or fast breathing (get to know your pet's sleeping respiration rate - SRR); An enlarged abdomen; Weight loss or poor appetite.

In dogs only:

Coughing, especially at night or after lying down
A reluctance to exercise and tiring more easily on walks
Weakness or fainting associated with exercise

If you think your pet might be showing signs of heart disease, call us for an appointment. Early treatment of this insidious disease will help your pet live a longer and happier life.



Patient of the Month

Skia, a beautiful 6 month old puppy, had an unfortunate accident one Friday morning a few weeks ago. She was on the back of a ute and fell off. Her tail was hurt very badly with the end half of the tail de-gloved and literally hanging by a thread.

Her owners bought her down to RivaPetz Pet Care because it was a terrible injury. However she was still her happy self. Dr Carolyn needed to amputate the tail the same day.

Skia has gone home happy and comfortable wagging a slightly shorter tail.

At her recheck she was all back to normal, prancing around the room, completely unaware that she has a new look. Her family can't wait for the hair on her short tail to grow back.



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