



Issue 29 | 10/14/11



### Fit or Fat? The Growing Problem of Overweight Pets

Pampering pets with food is a common malady pet-parents share. After all, it is very difficult to turn away a pair of big, shiny eyes and sloppy kisses - especially when your pets know that will earn them a treat.

Unfortunately, overfeeding pets is a national problem that keeps getting worse. Pets are generally not going to show restraint and will eat whatever is put in front of them. Without regulating their diet or giving them enough exercise, your pets can develop debilitating health problems, such as diabetes, arthritis, and heart disease.

In honor of National Pet Obesity Awareness Day (October 12), this week's issue is dedicated to curbing your pet's weight by being informed on the dangers of pet obesity, so your pets can live a longer and healthier life - and continue sharing those wonderfully sloppy kisses with you.



**WIN**  
**\$10,000**  
in prizes from pet retailers

To enter take the  
**Science Diet®**  
**Ideal Balance™**  
**Dog Nutrition**  
**Quiz**

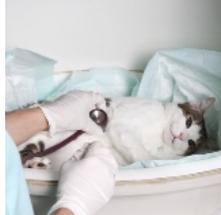
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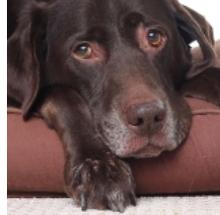
**DID YOU KNOW?**  
An overweight dog is more likely to die younger than a dog of normal weight.

Source:  
The Kennel Club

<b>Health</b>	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>News</b>
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**ABNORMAL HEART RHYTHM**  
If your normally active cat has suddenly become sluggish, check with your vet to determine if an abnormal heart rhythm is the cause.



**CONSTIPATION**  
Older dogs may not be able to "go" after ingesting some foods. Easing their painful discomfort may require medical treatment.



**NEW DOGGY DIET BOOK**  
Just in time for National Pet Obesity Awareness Day, author Peggy Frezon's memoir, *Dieting With My Dog*, was released.

<b>Dog Breed</b>	<b>Top 10</b>	<b>Cat Breed</b>
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**SHIBA INU**  
This hardy, curly-tailed, Asian-bred canine is perfect for adventurous outdoorsy types.



**KEEPING YOUR CAT IN SHAPE**  
Keep your cat fit by curbing bad carbs and finding new ways to arouse his natural curiosity.



**BENGAL CAT**  
This independent and energetic "mini-leopard" loves to play with people - especially children.

<b>Fully Vetted</b>	<b>The Daily Vet</b>	<b>Nutrition Nuggets</b>
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**FAIRNESS TO PET OWNERS ACT**  
When Dr. Coates saw that a bill had been introduced in the House that directly affects veterinarians and pet owners, she took notice.



**RECOGNIZING OBESITY**  
Obesity is the number one nutritional disease affecting our pets. What can be done to safely promote weight loss and improved health?



**FINICKY EATER?**  
Once your vet has determined that your dog is finicky and not sick, there are a few things you can do to make sure she's getting all she needs.