



WHAT SHOULD I FEED MY CAT?

We would have had detail of the food the cat was fed previously and what it was suited while with us too, in addition to any medical issues we were aware of.

We have found some pedigree cats are more prone than others to upset and sensitive tummies than others.

Cats are obligate carnivores which means that in order to live they **MUST** eat meat in its food. There are developments for new foods, but we are largely veggie or vegan but feed our cats meat in their prepared complete foods.

There is no place in a cat's world for carbohydrates - they simply cannot process them and an over-indulgence of them can lead to obesity and diabetes. To put it simply, your cat should be fed a diet of some wet, grain free (carbohydrate free) food and we feel some dry. Our own cats have about 50:50 wet to dry and they have huge bowls of water re freshed constantly with fresh water as someone passes and they love drinking it.

For any cat aged 8 or over, we switch them to renal food as long as it doesn't upset their tummies too much (changing food should not be done suddenly – ideally change only 10% to new food each day. Renal food is lower protein – which is hard for the kidneys to process and is higher in fat, as it may keep their kidneys going longer if they have lower protein levels. Renal food is also good to keep the weight on some older cats as they lose muscle mass (they can't make muscle with failing kidneys, so become boney around hips and spine, but may have a little pot belly). We have a lot of dry food of different types available to our generally old cats we have.



GRAIN FREE !

For dry foods, we use grain free, high protein and often one protein source – usually Applaws for young healthy cats and their senior for our cats (as most of ours are well over 8). But we do use Royal Canin Dental etc and Hills. We do not use any brand currently available in any supermarket we shop at. These things are a personal choice, but your contract at adoption is to agree to feed good quality food as the cat is on or one similar.

We leave a large variety of a good quality mix and a huge water bowl or two. As cats get older, they need to drink a lot of water. If they are fed dry food, they need to drink a lot of water.

We have found some pedigree cats are more prone than others to upset and sensitive tummies than others. In our experience, Siamese/orientals, BSHs can be much more prone to this.

With wet food, again if they don't get an upset tummy, renal food can be used for any older cat. We add some water to these to encourage our cats to take in more water.

Some of our team like water fountains to encourage their cats to eat. One of ours will only drink from a running tap and preferably where his whole body can get wet at the same time!

Some of our team feed raw diet by choice. We have never tried this, but some pedigree owners and mixed breed cat owners chose this.

If you buy your cats cat milk and you have a few cats - we use LACTOFREE human milk which is low lactose and it works out much cheaper than small bottle of cat milk. We only give very occasionally to our cats and we never ever give commercial cat treats. A vet decades ago asked me would you feed human children on a life of sweets or crisps and junk food? So my cats have no idea of treats in that sense - they get a bit of cooked chicken breast as their treat or some wet tinned Applaws (some are a complimentary food not a complete food).



OK - DONE ALL THAT BUT MY CAT STILL HAS A RUNNY TUMMY

Talk to others about sensitive tummy options (usually dry high quality pet food with NO GRAIN and one protein source can work, or sensitive wet food), so by trying options and giving each one 2 weeks to work/help. There are also things to add to feel like Tree Bark (slippery Elm), probiotics, Pro colin, etc. which your vet will be able to advise on. The vet can also prescribe some things to try to settle the digestive system down.

Some of our team used a raw diet as your cat might well have a food intolerance (usually related to the grain in commercial pet food). That doesn't mean you need to stand in the kitchen hacking at a carcass - in fact it's probably better that you don't as cats need a precise ratio of protein (meat), offal and bone to keep their systems working properly. They also need certain additives such as taurine which most raw food suppliers include in their food. If in doubt make sure the packet states "complete" rather than "complementary". There are several suppliers of raw foods who will deliver it frozen to your home and more and more "natural" pet shops are opening all the time who will also stock it. One of our team who is very experienced with rescue says - my own cats prefer Purrform, which comes in both tubs and sachets, but obviously I cannot vouch for their decision, nor do I receive free samples for recommending it! All I would say is that I have seen some truly remarkable improvements after cats have transitioned to raw. Itching and scratching can also be a sign of a food intolerance, not just diarrhoea.

