



FALL NEWSLETTER

Gwinnett Animal Hospital
2017



DID YOU KNOW...?

September 21st is officially
"Gwinnett Animal Hospital Day"
in the city of Snellville

How much food should I feed my dog?

This is a question commonly asked of vets, and there is no one-size-fits-all answer. Keep in mind that every dog is an individual and factors such as his lifestyle, the digestibility of the food, and any current medical problems will all have an impact.

The place to start is knowing how many calories your dog needs per day by calculating his RER (Resting Energy Requirement):

$$\text{RER} = 13 \times \text{current weight} + 70$$

This will give you the number of calories for an average, adult house dog with minimal exercise. For overweight dogs, this number must be reduced. For more active dogs, this number is multiplied by a factor of anywhere from 1.4 for a dog that takes a daily walk or two, up to 4 for a nursing dog or one in very heavy work.

Examples:

- ◆ 20 pound house dog, not overweight, walks around the house and goes out to potty. $\text{RER} = 13 \times 20 + 70 = 330$ calories per day
- ◆ 55 pound active dog, lean, jogs 2 miles with dad, plays ball in the yard. $\text{RER} = 13 \times 55 + 70 = 785$ calories, multiplied by, lets say, 2 for moderately strenuous activity = **1570** calories per day

Now you'll have to know how many calories are in every cup/can of food to know how many cups/cans he can have per day. Your food bag may have this information, or you can call the company or go online to find it.

Don't forget treats have calories too, so these will need to be counted as well, and be sure to use an 8oz measuring cup when measuring dry food.

Next newsletter: recommendations on feeding cats!

Staff Trivia! GAH owner and business manager, Andrea, was once part of a sky diving team!

As responsible pet parents, we have an obligation to care for our furry friends in sickness and in health. We know that pet care can be overwhelming, so how do we do what's best for our pet? Here are a few tips to help you keep your pet healthy for years to come!

Schedule Regular Check-Ups

Don't skip your pet's yearly exam! It's much safer for your pet if we can catch problems early on in their course. Keep in mind that pets age much faster than humans do, so regular visits are a must.

Personalize Your Pet's Vaccines

Some vaccines are optional, while others are essential in preventing serious diseases. Never skip any shots required by local laws or mandatory for your pet's protection, but do talk to your vet about personalizing your pet's vaccine protocol or running vaccine titers.

Microchip and/or GPS Track Your Pet

Every year, thousands of beloved pets become lost and wind up in shelters. A microchip or GPS tracker ensures that you will be reunited with your fur baby if s/he gets lost.

Brush Your Pet's Teeth

Dental disease is uncomfortable for your pet and can lead to tooth loss, and heart or kidney problems. Start a dental routine to keep your pet's teeth and gums healthy. Ask your veterinarian what products to use and how often, and don't use toothpaste made for people, which contains fluoride and may irritate your pet's stomach.

Protect Your Pet from Heartworms and Other Parasites

Heartworms cause significant damage to the heart and lungs, sometimes leading to heart failure and death. Since they are transmitted by mosquitoes, all dogs are at risk. Flea and tick infestations can cause a host of medical problems from minor skin irritations to life-threatening blood loss. Ask your vet to recommend a heartworm preventative and flea and tick product to keep the critters at bay. Make sure to only use products as directed and **never use a dog product on a cat!**

Consider Pet Health Insurance

If the cost of an emergency veterinary visit or serious illness would be a financial strain, consider investing in pet health insurance while your pet is healthy. Be sure to read the fine print, though—not all plans are created equal.

Buy High-Quality Pet Food

Just as balanced nutrition is important for your health, a good quality pet food is one way to keep your pet healthy as well. Make sure to follow calorie guidelines and keep treats to a minimum to keep your pet's weight optimal. Obesity is a major problem in pets and can lead to heart problems, diabetes, and decreased mobility.



Boarding spots fill up very quickly for the holidays- remember to reserve a place for your pet as soon as possible!

