IN-CLINIC FORM

Step by Step: Feeding the Pet with Cancer
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Read Practical Approaches to Feeding the Cancer Patient, page 51, for further information on feeding dogs and cats with cancer. Visit tvpjournal.com/resources.asp#resources for the table, Feeding Guidelines Based on Nutritional Status for Dogs & Cats with Cancer, which provides detailed information on:
- Clinical assessment (Step 1)
- Specific feeding guidelines (Steps 2–4, 6, 7)
- Suggested feeding approaches (Step 5)
- Practical recommendations (Step 7).

1. Assess the pet to determine nutritional status: Well-nourished, borderline malnourished, or significantly malnourished.
2. Determine current caloric intake and daily calorie needs of pet based on nutritional status:
   - Assess current daily calorie intake: Using the reported caloric density (kcal/can, kcal/8-ounce cup, kcal/gram of diet) of the commercial diet being offered, calculate the actual daily calorie intake based on amount (cans, cups, grams) of diet consumed each day.
   - Calculate resting energy requirement (RER) based on pet’s current or optimal body weight (BW):
     \[ \text{RER (kcal ME/day)} = (\text{BWkg})^{0.75} \times 70 \]
   - Calculate daily energy requirement (DER, a mathematical equation with variables based on nutritional status):
     \[ \text{DER (kcal ME/day)} = \text{RER} \times \text{predetermined numerical factor (Table)} \]
   - Compare actual daily caloric intake to daily calories required (DER).
3. Determine dietary fat and protein levels (low, moderate, high; see Table 4, page 54) based on current or planned treatment regime and comorbidities, such as renal, hepatic, or pancreatic disease.
4. Determine required supplemental nutrients based on anticancer therapy.
   - No treatment: Consider immediate dietary supplementation of omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants (AOX).
   - Surgery: If intestinal surgery, consider immediate glutamine supplementation; following any surgery, delay omega-3 fatty acid supplementation for 3 to 4 days.1,2
   - Chemotherapy: Prior to therapy, consider probiotic supplementation; during therapy, appetite stimulants and omega-3 fatty acid supplementation. Do not supplement with AOX until chemotherapy regime is completed.
   - Radiation: Same as chemotherapy.
5. Identify appropriate feeding method to ensure adequate RER/DER intake:
   - Voluntary only
   - Voluntary + enteric assisted
   - Enteric assisted only
   - Parenteral ± enteric assisted
6. Choose appropriate diet based on appropriate nutrient levels, supplemental nutrients, and feeding method.
7. Discuss feeding plan with pet caregiver:
   - Identify food choices or options.
   - Calculate daily feeding dose based on daily caloric goal (RER to DER at current or optimal BW).
   - Determine feeding frequency.
   - Set monitoring parameters and follow-up schedule.

AOX = antioxidants; BCS = body condition score; BW = body weight; BWkg = body weight in kilograms; DER = daily energy requirement; ME = metabolizable energy; RER = resting energy requirement

References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE. Predetermined Numerical Factors for Calculating DER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUTRITIONAL STATUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Nourished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCS 4–6 (current BW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCS &gt; 6 (ideal BW)</td>
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<td>Borderline Malnourished</td>
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<td>Significantly Malnourished</td>
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\(^a\) Numerical factor varies depending on nutritional status and signalment (adult life stage)
\(^b\) Calculate based on current BW
\(^c\) Calculate based on ideal BW