

SILVER MAPLE VETERINARY CLINIC
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**PET NUTRITION
AWARENESS**

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DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN THAT BOWL?

Every pet has special nutritional needs. Too little or too much of certain nutrients can be detrimental to a pet's health. For example, a food formulated to meet the requirements of a growing kitten would be inappropriate for an older cat with kidney disease. The best nutrition for an individual pet varies by age, activity level, and health condition, referred to as lifestage and lifestyle nutrition.

Lifestage nutrition is the practice of feeding foods designed to meet a pet's optimal nutritional needs at a specific age or physiologic state. The concept of lifestage nutrition recognizes that feeding either below or above an optimal nutrient concentration can, over various timeframes, adversely affect health - sometimes irreversibly.

Lifestyle nutrition is based on the premise that some dogs and cats have special needs. Also, some pet owners interact with their pets differently than others, or simply prefer different foods. For example, a pet owner who runs six miles

daily with her dog may need to feed a food that provides more energy than an owner who has a more sedentary dog.

The goal in proper pet nutrition is to feed for optimal health, performance, and longevity; thus, feeding foods optimized toward individual needs is preferred. Excess levels of nutrients and energy can be just as harmful as insufficient levels. So, if you are using an over the counter supplement, be very aware of what's in it. We'll be happy to take a look at it for you to determine if it's truly offering a benefit to your pet's health and nutrition.

Proper nutrition is so important in helping prevent, and aiding in the recovery of, certain diseases, such as heart disease, kidney disease, poor oral health, skin problems, and obesity. Feeding a quality food is an integral part of caring for your pet. Now, we are not saying that you should only buy your pet's food from us....that's not it at all. What we are encouraging is

that you take a look at what you're feeding your pet and how you're feeding, as well. Some choices are measured meals one to two times a day or free-feeding. Free-feeding can be very convenient, but depending on your pet, can also encourage obesity. This is where looking at the lifestyle aspect of nutrition comes into play. If you have a pet that tends to be a "couch potato" and is prone to over eating, the free-feeding method is not the optimal choice.

It's also critically important that clean fresh water is always available.

If you'd like to learn more about what's in that bowl, give us a call. We can set up an appointment to talk about your pet's nutrition and offer advice and/or suggestions if we (and that includes you, the pet parent) feel that changes need to be made. Our mutual goal is to care for your pet - we do understand the bond that forms when these wonderful animals are invited to share our homes and hearts.

NUTRIENTS:

- Water
- Carbohydrates
- Protein
- Fat
- Minerals
- Vitamins

Of these nutrients, carbohydrates, protein and fat supply energy.



It's important to understand the nutrients in your pet's food. Animals need specific nutrients, not ingredients.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.SILVERMAPLEVET.COM

**YOUR COMMUNITY
VETERINARY CLINIC**

We are working for you and the health of your pet.....we've researched the Derm Cap products we carry and they do not contain mercury as some fish-oil based products do. Additionally, we do carry the Urban King (for cats) and Urban Wolf (for dogs) food, which is a home-made diet, but is completely nutritional. All you have to do is add meat and oil. It's full of anti-oxidants and it's grain-free.

Website News!

We're working to make things more convenient for you! From our home page, you can download the New Client Form, as well as the Comprehensive Medical Form which is very useful to you and us during your pet's physical exam.

Also, you can request prescription refills!!!

Give it a try!

Website Designed and Maintained by Presentation Graphics 610-683-8496

PETS CARRY A WIDE RANGE OF CHEMICAL POLLUTANTS

Recently, Dr. Sam Yoder heard a report on NPR about chemicals and our pets. The Environmental Working Group, in conjunction with AXYS Analytical Services, has come up with some odd findings...one of which is that our cats probably have more mercury in their systems than we do! Additionally, there is research to suggest that the epidemic of thyroid disease in cats is related to a higher intake of canned cat foods. There is a chemical called bisphenol A which is used to line cans and Larry Glickman of Perdue University believes that this may be the culprit. We are

able to test for mercury using the Diagnostic Laboratory of Cornell University and we are looking into other testing options with AXYS.

Another finding is that our dogs have twice as much of the chemicals found in stain-resistant carpets and couches. If you walk on a stain-resistant carpet, you may kick up and inhale a tiny dose of perfluorochemicals, or PFC's. But, what if you stretched out on it for a while and then licked your fur. Additionally, levels of flame-retardant polybrominated diphenyl ethers, or PBDE's were 23 times

higher. While unpleasant to consider, our pets are, in a sense, the "canary in the coal mine". They're picking up the same chemicals that we're exposed to, they have a shorter life span and they develop diseases more quickly.

What can we do? At this time, there are few, if any, regulations on the chemicals used in our canned foods (pet and human), plastic bottles, carpets, cooking utensils, etc. It's rather overwhelming when looked at as a whole. But, we can be more aware and mindful of what we purchase and bring into

our homes. There are alternatives available - green products, if you will. Buying fresh, local food is one option and is becoming more and more accessible. If you enjoy carrying a cold drink with you, consider Kleen Kanteen's stainless steel bottle. It requires some effort, but products are available for you and your pet. This is one of the reasons we carry the "earth friendly toys" for your cats and dogs. They're not just friendly to the earth...they're friendly to your pet, too!

**If you would like to know more about options available, visit the PA Energy Festival in Kempton, PA on September 19th, 20th and 21st.
www.paenergyfest.com**