



The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

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Member Education Series

Nutrition

There are many different brands and types of food for cats, and each breeder may have their own preferred choice of whether they are feeding dry / raw or a mixture. No matter what the food choice is however, there are certain requirements that must be met under the Government Legislation to ensure that the cats are kept healthy and in peak body condition.

The food choices must adhere to the following:

- Food must be provided in sufficient quantity and nutritional quality; it must be feline appropriate and scientifically balanced to meet the daily requirements for the condition and size of the animal.
- Minimum quantity and nutritional quality of feed must be detailed within the health management plan developed in conjunction with, and signed off by, a veterinary practitioner for each classification of cat (eg pregnant queens, lactating queens, working studs, kittens and adolescents, retired or elderly cats or cats that may have a specific issue).
- All adult and adolescent cats must be fed a minimum of once daily from a clean food receptacle.
- Pregnant and lactating queens must be fed at least twice daily, or under instruction from a veterinary practitioner, from a clean food receptacle.
- Kittens between 3 weeks of age and weaning must be provided with a suitable food in accordance with the health management plan. (Actual age of introduction to food may vary with the breeds of cat, however once it is observed that they are wanting to eat solids, these must be offered in accordance with the plan)
- Fully weaned kittens less than 16 weeks of age must be fed a minimum of 3 times daily from a clean food receptacle, and must not be left without food for a period of more than 12 hours. Kittens may share a food receptacle.
- Kittens between 16–24 weeks of age must be fed a minimum of twice daily from clean food receptacles.
- Orphaned and pre-weaned kittens must be fed under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.
- When multiply housed, each cat must be provided with sufficient water and clean food receptacles to ensure all cats can feed at one time, should they choose to. The breeder must ensure all cats multiply housed are socially compatible to feed together and are able to eat a sufficient quantity of food without duress.
- Food must be stored in sealed, vermin proof containers and if necessary, refrigerated according to manufacturer's directions. Frozen food should be clearly marked with the date it was frozen.
- The preparation of food must be conducted in hygienic areas which must be cleaned and disinfected after the food is prepared.

- Food receptacles must be non-spill and made of a material that can be easily cleaned and disinfected.
- Food receptacles must be designed so as not to cause injury to the animals.
- All meals must be provided in a clean food receptacle, and any uneaten food from a prior meal must be removed.

Water

All cats / kittens must have access at all times to a permanent supply of fresh, clean water daily. This must be located in their housing area. The recommended volume of water required daily is approximately 50 millilitres of water per one kilogram of body weight. eg for a cat of 4kg this equals 200ml

This amount however may vary depending on a number of factors including health status, environmental temperature, amount of exercise, whether it is a lactating animal, water content of diet, age of the cat, etc.

Water receptacles:

- must be non-spill and made of a material that can be cleaned and disinfected
- must be large enough to hold sufficient water for all cats in the pen / enclosure to be able to drink at any one time (eg if there are 3 4kg cats in the pen, then it must be able to hold 600ml)
- must hold sufficient water for all cats in a cage
- for young kittens must be shallow enough to prevent injury or drowning