



Feeding Guidelines by the Staff at Natural Pet Pantry

Every pet food company puts out some sort of feeding chart, but in our experience, we've found that every dog/cat is different. Like humans, pets have different metabolism, different activity levels, different types/qty of treats, etc. So, it's important for the pet parent to understand the "charts and guidelines" are just a starting point. This is true for all kinds of pet food... kibble, canned, cooked, raw, etc.

What is more important is to **monitor the pet's weight** (i.e., every month or so) and look for trends of increasing/decreasing weight and adjust the food accordingly. If you find the pet is losing a little weight, then raise the amount of daily food. Do the opposite if gaining weight. Or adjust the number of treats. Some pet-parents go to the trouble of trying to calculate calories, etc., but there are so many variables involved (treats, activity, etc.) we suggest keeping it simple and just monitor your dog's weight. With a little trial-and-error you will land in the right spot.

Adult Dogs and Cats

In general, a healthy adult dog/cat will consume around 2 – 4% of their ideal target adult weight. Smaller dogs - less than 10 pounds - may consume more (5%+) and very active dogs (herding dogs) may consume even more than that. Fun fact: We say "**ideal target weight**" because about 60% of pets in the U.S. are overweight, so instead of feeding for the weight they currently are we suggest feeding for the weight they should be.

Example: If the dog's ideal target weight is 40 pounds, but weighs 50 pounds, we suggest feeding the dog for 40 pound target, and start at 3% of that ideal weight. $40 \text{ pounds} \times 3\% = 1.25 \text{ pounds} = 20 \text{ ounces}$. Spread across as many meals as you want. We like to use a small kitchen scale for measuring our food, but one cup packed with food is about 8 ounces.

Puppies and Kittens

The above guidance for adults does NOT apply to puppies and kittens! Puppies and kittens grow fast, and they need a lot of food. Our guidance for feeding fresh food to puppies and kittens is to feed them the amount of food they would be eating **as if they are already full grown**. For example, if your tiny cute little 8-pound puppy is expected to grow to around 40 pounds, then feed them like a 40-pound adult dog. That means, in this example, your 8-pound puppy will be eating around 1.25 pounds of food per day. I know it seems impossible, but they will pack it away. And you don't need to be exact... maybe the pet is an adoption, and you don't really know what weight they will grow to be. It's OK to use an estimate and err to the high side!

The next page has a summary chart to use to help do the math, but again this is just starting point. It's OK to round up or round down a bit... so, for example, if your pet is 30 pounds, then feeding 3% of the body weight would be 14.4 oz's, but the chart has rounded to 15 oz's, and it's OK to just go with one pound per day and then see how it goes. We can't stress enough to monitor your pet's weight and adjust as needed. It will take some trial and error but it's easy! Obesity can become a real problem.

Please call us at 425-739-4738 during regular store hours and we will be happy to help guide you through the transition to raw food and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you from your Natural Pet Pantry family!

Approximate Qty to Feed per Day (ounces) (can spread across as many meals as desired) 16oz's = 1 lb							
Most Common range for Adult Pets (2%-4%)				Smaller dogs (<10 pounds), active dogs, pets with high metabolism			
IDEAL Weight of Pet (lbs)	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%
5	2 oz's	3 oz's	4 oz's	4 oz's	5 oz's	6 oz's	7 oz's
10	4 oz's	5 oz's	7 oz's	8 oz's	10 oz's	12 oz's	13 oz's
15	5 oz's	8 oz's	10 oz's	12 oz's	15 oz's	17 oz's	20 oz's
20	7 oz's	10 oz's	13 oz's	16 oz's	20 oz's	23 oz's	26 oz's
25	8 oz's	12 oz's	16 oz's	20 oz's	24 oz's	28 oz's	32 oz's
30	10 oz's	15 oz's	20 oz's	24 oz's	29 oz's	34 oz's	39 oz's
35	12 oz's	17 oz's	23 oz's	28 oz's	34 oz's	40 oz's	45 oz's
40	13 oz's	20 oz's	26 oz's	32 oz's	39 oz's	45 oz's	52 oz's
45	15 oz's	22 oz's	29 oz's	36 oz's	44 oz's	51 oz's	58 oz's
50	16 oz's	24 oz's	32 oz's	40 oz's	48 oz's	56 oz's	64 oz's
60	20 oz's	29 oz's	39 oz's	48 oz's	58 oz's	68 oz's	77 oz's
70	23 oz's	34 oz's	45 oz's	56 oz's	68 oz's	79 oz's	90 oz's
80	26 oz's	39 oz's	52 oz's	64 oz's	77 oz's	90 oz's	103 oz's
90	29 oz's	44 oz's	58 oz's	72 oz's	87 oz's	101 oz's	116 oz's
100	32 oz's	48 oz's	64 oz's	80 oz's	96 oz's	112 oz's	128 oz's
110	36 oz's	53 oz's	71 oz's	88 oz's	106 oz's	124 oz's	141 oz's
120	39 oz's	58 oz's	77 oz's	96 oz's	116 oz's	135 oz's	154 oz's
130	42 oz's	63 oz's	84 oz's	104 oz's	125 oz's	146 oz's	167 oz's
140	45 oz's	68 oz's	90 oz's	112 oz's	135 oz's	157 oz's	180 oz's
150	48 oz's	72 oz's	96 oz's	120 oz's	144 oz's	168 oz's	192 oz's

IDEAL weight = the weight the pet should be at for optimal health, NOT the weight the pet currently is.

16 oz's = 1lb; One Cup packed with food is about 8 oz's