



# Diet & Feeding

## Diet

We recommend feeding your kitten three times daily until they are large enough to prevent a crisis caused by low blood sugar. For most cats, this usually means until they are at least four months of age. As a general rule of thumb, similar to humans, eating several small meals per day has more metabolic benefits than eating a single meal; therefore, we encourage clients to feed their pets at least two or three smaller meals per day, throughout their lives. Additionally, canned food is overall preferred for cats than dry food, as canned food has the advantage of decreasing the chance of diabetes and urinary tract problems. Many clients find that their kittens prefer dry food, which many doctors feel is appropriate to offer in addition to offering can food.

## Feeding

As far as brands of food go, there are very many different diets and brands out there. The following companies have shown a commitment to creating diets that are ideal for our pets, and thus you can feel confident in offering them to your kitten: Hills (aka Science Diet), Royal Canin, and Purina. These three companies make both prescription diets as well as non-prescription diets. Prescription diets are generally purchased through a veterinary office and are intended to help specific medical concerns. These companies invest a lot of money and research into finding the diet formulations that most benefits those concerns. Their non-prescription diet lines are the foods you can buy at the food store, and similarly are likely of better quality than many other brands out there - again, because these companies invest a lot of effort into ensuring they are using high-quality ingredients and are consistently looking to update the effectiveness of these food based on ongoing research and studies. Should you choose another brand, please check the food label to make sure the food has been tested by AAFCO "feeding trials"; be careful if the label simply says the diet has been formulated meet AAFCO "standards", as this often implies the manufacturer may not have even tested the diet on cats.