

LET'S TALK ABOUT WEIGHT, POOCHY...

OBESITY IN DOGS

Obesity is a very common problem in dogs, and often goes unnoticed by pet owners. Not only is obesity not often identified, it carries some serious health risks that can significantly reduce the lifespan of your pet if it is not managed appropriately.

Obesity is closely associated with a number of disorders, including:

- Bone (orthopaedic) disorders
- Heart and respiratory system problems
- Diabetes mellitus
- Pancreatitis
- Liver disorders & decreased liver function
- Skin conditions
- Urinary tract disorders
- Heat stroke
- Complications under general anaesthesia



Instigating a weight management plan is vitally important for an overweight pet to reduce the risk of developing these conditions or to better manage them if they are already present.

SO, IS MY PET OVERWEIGHT? HOW DO WE TELL?

Sometimes to owners, it isn't always obvious if your pet is overweight or not. Veterinary professionals use a grading system to establish the severity and help monitor obesity in dogs and cats – rather than focusing on weight measurements.

WHY IS MY PET OVERWEIGHT?

The most common reasons why animals become obese is through **excessive food intake** (overfeeding) or **reduced energy requirements** (decrease in activity or changing life stage). However, there are a number of other predisposing factors, including breed predisposition, medications or endocrine disorders.

If your pet is having difficulty losing weight sometimes these diseases need to be investigated as an underlying cause. Desexing status – neutered pets are at an increased risk of weight gain as their energy requirements are decreased after desexing.

1	Very Thin More than 20% below ideal body weight	
2	Thin between 10 and 20% below ideal weight	
3	Ideal Weight	
4	Overweight 20% above ideal weight	
5	Markedly Obese 40% above ideal weight	

OUR WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC—If you are worried about your pet's weight, our nurses are now available to perform in depth weight –loss consultations. Here we can assess your pet's weight, determine their weight score, calculate their ideal weight, and develop a diet plan to get them to a healthy size. Contact us to make a booking, either online or via phone.

