

Multiple Cat Household Weight Loss Using Automated Feeders

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study is to determine the outcomes of feline weight loss programs using automated feeders in terms of owner satisfaction, increase in the rate and consistency of weight loss, reducing begging and hunger behaviors during a weight loss program. The study will also compare feeding 6 meals per day versus 2 times per day on the above mentioned criteria.

There are 3 groups that the cat can be randomized into: owner fed 2 times per day, automated feeder 2 times per day, automated feeder 6 times per day.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Cat must be overweight or obese BCS of 7/9 or greater and a BFI (body fat index) of 30 or greater
- Multi-cat household
- Indoor cats only
- Must be willing to feed/eat an exclusively dry food diet
- Only 1 cat per household on the study
- Study cat must be between 1 to 10 years of age

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Cats must be free from systemic illness that would preclude the use of a therapeutic weight loss diet or interfere with metabolism and appetite. Such conditions would include, but not limited to hyperthyroidism, chronic kidney disease, neoplasia, inflammatory bowel disease, and diabetes mellitus.



STUDY BENEFITS

Study participants will receive complimentary nutritional assessments and lab work valued at \$267. There is no cost to the client. Upon completion of the 6 month study, clients will receive their choice of a \$100 credit to UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center or a VISA gift card. Employees of the University of Tennessee will only have the option of hospital credit.

Frequency of visits: Initial assessment (Day 0), return on weeks 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26. Week 4 will not be a visit, but owners will be required to answer study questions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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