

Humane Society – Feeding and Watering Procedures

1. General. Proper feeding is critical to the health and well-being of our animals. Proper nutrition and feeding schedules can make the difference between healthy animals and animals who succumb to illness due to improper diets.

2. Food Sources.

a. Our shelter's food source is primarily from donations from the area XXXXX. They give us their broken dry food bags, returned food, dented cans, treats, etc. We are extremely grateful for this food as it keeps us from expending our always scarce income on food.

b. We also accept donated food from citizens and other sources as it becomes available. In general we never turn down donated food and when we get a surplus we contact other non-profit shelters in need and share accordingly.

c. We NEVER give food to individuals who ask us – we sign an agreement with XXXXX that this food has been given to us for our use only and any violation of that could cause us to lose this extremely valuable support.

d. Employees are NOT to take food, treats, cat litter home or give the same to friends, family members, etc and violations of this will be result in disciplinary action.

3. Brand/Type Usage.

a. This donated food encompasses a variety of brands. If at all possible we try to feed the brands that do **NOT** have dyes. These red and green dyes can make it difficult for us to catch the start of a health issue as we evaluate fecal material on a daily basis. Many diseases may cause blood in a stool and this can be confused by foods with red dyes in them which can lead us to make an incorrect initial diagnosis. If at all possible, only use those brands that are only brown or neutral in color.

b. If, due to the availability of our food, we must feed food with dyes, try to utilize that food only for animals in our back or "hold" building. If this is not possible then feed adult animals the food with dyes and use any brown or natural foods for the puppies and kittens. If puppy or kitten chow is available (without dyes), then feed that to puppies and kittens. Try to keep the brown or neutral food in the front building as much as possible.

4. Food Bowls. Feed only in stainless steel bowls or pans. Use one bowl per puppy/dog over four months old. Use one or more puppy pans for puppies under ten weeks old. For cats, use one small bowl per adult cat in the individual cages. For cats in communal cages, use one large bowl per three adult cats or five kittens under six months old. For kittens in individual cages, use one small bowl per two-three kittens.

5. Canned Food. Our preference is to only feed canned foods that are based on either chicken or lamb. The red meat canned foods can cause more digestive upsets than the blander chicken and lamb varieties, so we generally never feed beef type canned foods to puppies or debilitated animals. These beef canned foods can be used with adult animals who are just not eating well or who need to gain weight.

6. Water.

a. Water must be available to our animals 24 hours/day. Maintaining fresh, clean water is critical and water must be checked and replenished throughout the day.

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b. Dirty water bowls are to be dumped, cleaned and refilled as needed. Once the initial morning feeding/watering is complete, do NOT use the hoses to refill water bowls. Instead, use the plastic watering cans to replenish water bowls as you can refill the bowls through the kennel caging without opening the doors and without getting water on the floors.

c. Homemade Pedialyte

1) Some animals will need more than just plain water if they are severely debilitated, sick, etc. For these animals we mix up our own generic Pedialyte formula to be administered either via syringe or in their water bowl.

2) Pedialyte Formula – 1 quart of water + 3 Tablespoons Sugar + 1 Teaspoon Salt

7. Feeding/Watering Guidelines

a. Adult Dogs

1) Healthy Adult Dogs

a) Food Type – dry food only, preferably without dyes

b) Food Amount – depending on size, a minimum of ¼ cup for small breeds, up to four cups for giant breeds.

c) Feeding Frequency – once daily in mornings

d) Water- fresh water at all times

2) Debilitated Adult Dogs

a) Food Type/Amount – ½ cup dry food (no dyes) + ¼-1/2 cup chicken or lamb and rice canned food + one scoop of dry milk powder + ½ teaspoon Meg-a-Cal + ¼ cup warm water – mix together. Give as many treats (but not treats dyed red or green) as they will take.

b) Feeding Frequency – minimum of twice daily; three times/day for severely emaciated dogs

c) Water – fresh water at all times

3) Nursing or Pregnant Adult Dogs

a) Food Type/Amount - ½ cup dry food (no dyes) + ¼ - ½ cup chicken or lamb and rice canned food + one scoop of dry milk powder + ½ teaspoon Meg-a-Cal + ¼ cup warm water – mix together. Give as many treats (but not treats dyed red or green) as they will take.

b) Feeding Frequency - minimum of twice daily; three times/day for dogs nursing large litters

c) Water - fresh water at all times

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b. Puppies.

1) Puppies under eight weeks of age & Debilitated Puppies

a) Food Type/Amount - ½ cup dry food (no dyes) + ¼ - ½ cup chicken or lamb and rice canned food + one scoop of dry milk powder + ½ teaspoon Meg-a-Cal + ¼ cup warm water – mix together.

b) Feeding Frequency - minimum of twice daily; three times/day for dogs nursing large litters

c) Water – Pedialyte mixture

2) Small Breed Puppies

a) Food Type/Amount - 4 cup dry food, small kibble (no dyes) + ½ cup chicken or lamb and rice canned food – mix together. Give as many treats (but not treats dyed red or green) as they will take.

b) Feeding Frequency - minimum of twice daily; three times/day if necessary

c) Water – fresh water or Pedialyte mixture depending on how they look

3) Puppies from eight weeks to six months

a) Food Type/Amount – dry food only, preferably without dyes

b) Feeding Frequency - keep bowl(s) full during day

c) Water – fresh water at all times

c. Adult Cats

1) Healthy Adult Cats

a) Food Type – dry foods with no dyes

b) Food Amount – one small full bowl, per adult cat in the individual cages. For cats in communal cages, use one large full bowl per three adult cats or five kittens under six months old.

c) Feeding Frequency – fill bowls first thing in morning; refill if necessary

d) Water- fresh water at all times

2) Debilitated, Nursing or Pregnant Adult Cats

a) Food Type/Amount – dry food (no dyes) mixed with ½ small canned cat food

b) Feeding Frequency – twice daily if they consume all of the first batch

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c) Water – fresh water at all times; Pedialyte mixture if necessary

d. Kittens

1) Kittens under eight weeks of age

a) Food Type/Amount – dry kitten chow mixed with canned cat food

b) Feeding Frequency – minimum of twice daily; three times/daily if necessary

c) Water – Pedialyte mixture or fresh water at all times

2) Debilitated Kittens

a) Food Type – Canned cat food mixed with one-two teaspoons of KMR or other type milk replacer and one-two teaspoons chicken broth (low sodium)

b) Food Amount – as much food as they will eat throughout the day

c) Feeding Frequency – keep fresh food available throughout the day

d) Water – Pedialyte mixture or fresh water at all times

3) Kittens from eight weeks to six months

a) Food type - dry foods with no dyes

b) Food Amount – one small full bowl, per adult cat in the individual cages. For cats in communal cages, use one large full bowl per three adult cats or five kittens under six months old.

c) Feeding Frequency – fill bowls first thing in morning; refill if necessary

d) Water- fresh water at all times