



## PET OBESITY AWARENESS

Pets come in all shapes and sizes, but sometimes our pets weight can get out of hand.

While a chubby pet can be a cute to some, the extra weight can have some serious consequences. It's important to practice discipline for the safety and well-being of our pets - pet obesity can lead to serious health issues, and can quickly become very costly.

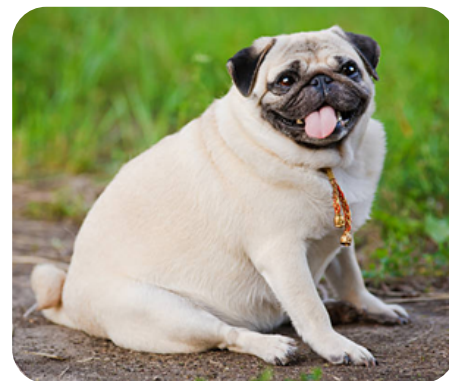
The good news is, it can be easily prevented!

### Start with recognizing that there's a problem

Often, pet owners think their obese pet is a normal weight, making confronting obesity difficult. No one wants to think their pet is overweight, and overcoming denial is our first battle.

### Pet weight is different

Pet weight is harder to lose: one pound lost in a canine is the equivalent to 5 human pounds, which means that each pound lost will be gradual and significant.



### WHY IS PET OBESITY A PROBLEM?

Obesity in pets means more than just having lazy animals. Pet obesity can lead to serious health issues for these animals including diabetes, arthritis, decreased life expectancy, chronic inflammation, orthopedic disease, kidney dysfunction, respiratory disorders, high blood pressure and cancer.

### WHAT PERCENT OF PETS ARE OVERWEIGHT?

Currently more than half of all domestic dogs and cats in the United States are overweight or obese. Nearly 49 million dogs (55.8%) and more than 50 million cats (59.5%)

### CAUSES OF PET OBESITY

Obesity is most commonly caused by an imbalance between the energy intake and usage – in other words, the pet eats more calories than they can burn. Obesity also becomes more common in old age because of the normal decrease in a pet's ability to exercise, due to arthritis and/or other conditions. Some things you can do to address the problem are: increasing play time, avoid giving table scraps, switch to a weight-control food, and take a visit to the vet in case there is a hidden health condition you may need to be aware of.