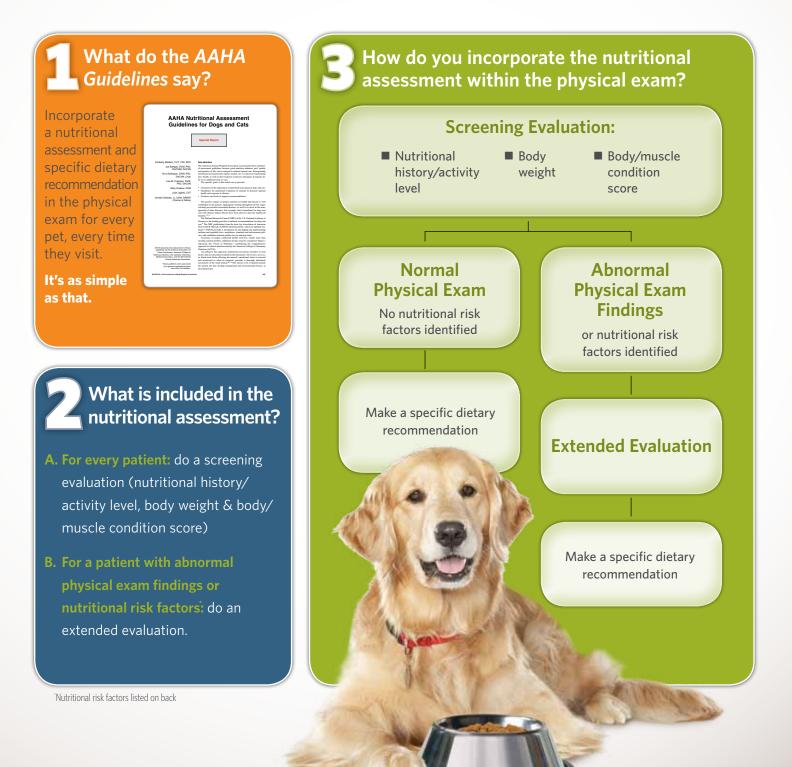




AAHA Nutritional Assessment Guidelines for Dogs and Cats Implementing the Guidelines is as Easy as 1-2-3



# How to ensure the entire team is working together to implement the *Guidelines*

AAHA Nutritional Assessment Guidelines for Dogs and Cats

"Incorporating a nutritional assessment into the routine examination protocol for every patient is important for maintaining optimal health, as well as the response to disease and injury."

> Michael Cavanaugh, DVM, DABVP AAHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### How to develop and customize a written protocol that works for your clinic

Make a **TEAM COMMITMENT** to acknowledge nutrition as a vital assessment and follow the *AAHA Nutritional Assessment Guidelines for Dogs and Cats* because your patients deserve it.

## Together, develop a customized **WRITTEN PROTOCOL** to ensure

every patient receives a nutritional assessment and specific dietary recommendation at every visit. (See example on right)

Visit **EVERYPETEVERYTIME.COM** or **AAHANET.ORG** to see the full *AAHA Guidelines* and tips for bringing them to life in your practice.

#### \* Nutritional risk factors:

- Lifestage considerations
- Abnormal BCS or MCS
- Poor skin or hair coat
- Systemic or dental disease
- Snacks, table food > 10% of total calories
- Unconventional diet
- Gastrointestinal upset
- Inadequate or inappropriate housing

#### Example of a protocol from clinics already making nutrition a vital assessment

#### CHECK IN

- □ Client fills out nutrition history/update form
- □ Weigh in
- Front desk staff places nutrition history/update form in patient's records
- EXAM ROOM
- Veterinary technician records history using nutrition history form to help ask questions and initiate discussion
- D Veterinarian performs a physical exam and nutritional assessment
- Veterinarian makes a specific nutrition recommendation and documents the recommendation in patient's records
- Veterinary technician fills out travel log, including nutrition recommendation
- Veterinary technician asks client if there are any questions and reinforces the recommendation
- Veterinary technician dispenses tools (measuring cups, literature about nutrition, information packet)
- Veterinary technician sends patient home with an information packet even if they don't purchase recommended food
- □ Front desk staff asks client again if there are any questions
- **Front desk staff** dispenses food and reinforces recommendation
- □ Front desk staff schedules a callback in 2-7 days if recommendation is for a new food
- □ Front desk staff enters reminder code for re-purchase of food two weeks before food will run out



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