



PAWSITIVE PRESS

Caring for Pets with Love & Kindness Since 1977



Trick-or-Treat us on Halloween!

Kim will be in AHOD's lobby on Oct. 31 handing out some Halloween treats for your furry kiddos. Oh, and we'll also have some treats for the humans ;)

Planning on Dressing Up Your Pup or Kitty for Halloween?



Send a picture or short video of your furry family members to our email starting Oct. 1 and we'll post your adorable trick-or-treater to our Facebook and Instagram throughout the month of October. Be sure to include all name(s) **Send to:** animalhospitalofdunedin@gmail.com



How To Tell If Your Pet Is Overweight

BY ELIZABETH FAZIO, DVM

Recognizing the Signs of Pet Obesity

1. Excess Body Fat: The most obvious sign of obesity in pets is an excessive amount of body fat. You should be able to feel your pet's ribs with a gentle touch, but not see them prominently. If you can't feel the ribs at all, or if you see rolls of fat around the neck, back, and hips, your pet may be overweight. Utilize the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Body Condition Scoring (BCS) System to quantify where your pet lies on healthy body fat. *Continued on page 2...*

1

FEATURED

How to tell if your pet is overweight...

2

DID YOU KNOW?

Dogs & Chocolate...

3

OCT. COUPONS

- > Dental Cleaning
- > 5% off Wellness Fridays

...Overweight from Page 1

Body Condition Scoring Web Resources:

FOR DOGS — <https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Body-Condition-Score-Dog.pdf>

FOR CATS — <https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Cat-Body-Condition-Scoring-2017.pdf>

2. Difficulty Moving: Overweight pets often struggle with physical activities. If your pet is reluctant to play, run, or climb stairs, this could be a sign of excess weight putting pressure on their joints and muscles.

3. Breathing Problems: Obese pets may have difficulty breathing due to the added weight on their chest and abdomen. Labored breathing, panting excessively, or snoring more than usual could indicate obesity.

4. Changes in Appetite: Although it might seem counterintuitive, some overweight pets develop an insatiable appetite. They may beg, steal food, or even wake you up when they shouldn't be hungry.

5. Lethargy: If your pet spends most of their time sleeping or resting, it may be a sign of obesity. They should have the energy to engage in regular activities and play. However, young animals and seniors do need extra rest naturally.

If you suspect your pet might be overweight, it's crucial to consult with a veterinarian.

6. Inability to Groom: Cats, in particular, may struggle to groom themselves properly if they're overweight. This can lead to matted fur and skin infections.

Assessing Your Pet's Health

If you suspect your pet might be overweight, it's crucial to consult with a veterinarian. They will perform a thorough physical examination and may recommend additional tests, such as blood work or X-rays, to assess your pet's overall health. Some pets may simply be being fed too much however, excess weight can be one of the first indicators of underlying disease.

Managing and Preventing Pet Obesity

1. Balanced Diet: At the AHOD we are happy to determine the appropriate diet for your pet's age, breed, and activity level. There are numerous options from pre-made kibble to home cooked diets. Be mindful of portion sizes and avoid feeding them table scraps or high-calorie treats.

2. Regular Exercise: Engage your pet in regular physical activity. Dogs need daily walks and playtime, while cats benefit from interactive toys and play. Gradually increase exercise to avoid strain.

Continued on page 3...

Did You Know? — By Michael Bartholomew, DVM, MS

With Halloween fast-approaching the risk of our 4-legged friends getting into human treats that can be harmful is increasing. And yes, chocolate is toxic to dogs due to the theobromine and caffeine it contains. Inevitably, at one time or another, our lovable hounds will nose their way into goodies containing chocolate. If your dog does get into chocolate of any kind, please call our office immediately at 727-733-9351.

Tips for keeping your pets safe from chocolate poisoning:

Make sure all family members (including the kiddos) are aware of the risks. Be diligent about keeping treats out of reach. Store chocolate treats in sealed containers (not plastic bags). Put them on a high shelf or in a closed cabinet. Have a clever pooch who will climb or open cabinet doors? Consider storing chocolates in the refrigerator or a closed pantry.



..Overweight from Page 2

3. Controlled Feeding: Instead of free-feeding, establish a feeding schedule. This allows you to monitor their food intake and helps prevent overeating.

4. Weight Management Programs: Some pets may require prescription foods to help them lose weight, or control their underlying metabolic disease. Once diagnostic tests are run, a step-by-step plan can be made for your pet's weight loss journey.

5. Patience and Consistency: Achieving a healthy weight for your pet takes time and commitment. Be patient, stay consistent with their diet and exercise routines, and monitor their progress.

Recognizing and addressing pet obesity is essential for the overall well-being and longevity of our furry companions. By staying vigilant and taking proactive steps to manage their weight, you can ensure that your pet enjoys a healthy, active, and long happy life. Always consult with your veterinarian for guidance tailored to your pet's specific needs, as they are your best resource in helping your pet achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

OCTOBER COUPONS

Present these coupons during any qualified appointment scheduled during the month of October!



**10% Off
DENTAL CLEANING**

Call for your appointment today 727-733-9351

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required predental lab work.
May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts.
Coupon must be presented at the time of service.

EXPIRES 10/31/23



**5% Off
WELLNESS SERVICES
ON FRIDAYS IN OCTOBER**

Call for your appointment today! 727-733-9351

This coupon is good for 5% off annual exams and vaccines when you schedule on Fridays in October. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts.
Discount applies to: Annual Exam, Annual Fecal Test, Annual Heartworm Test, Vaccines.
Coupon must be presented at the time of service.

EXPIRES 10/31/23