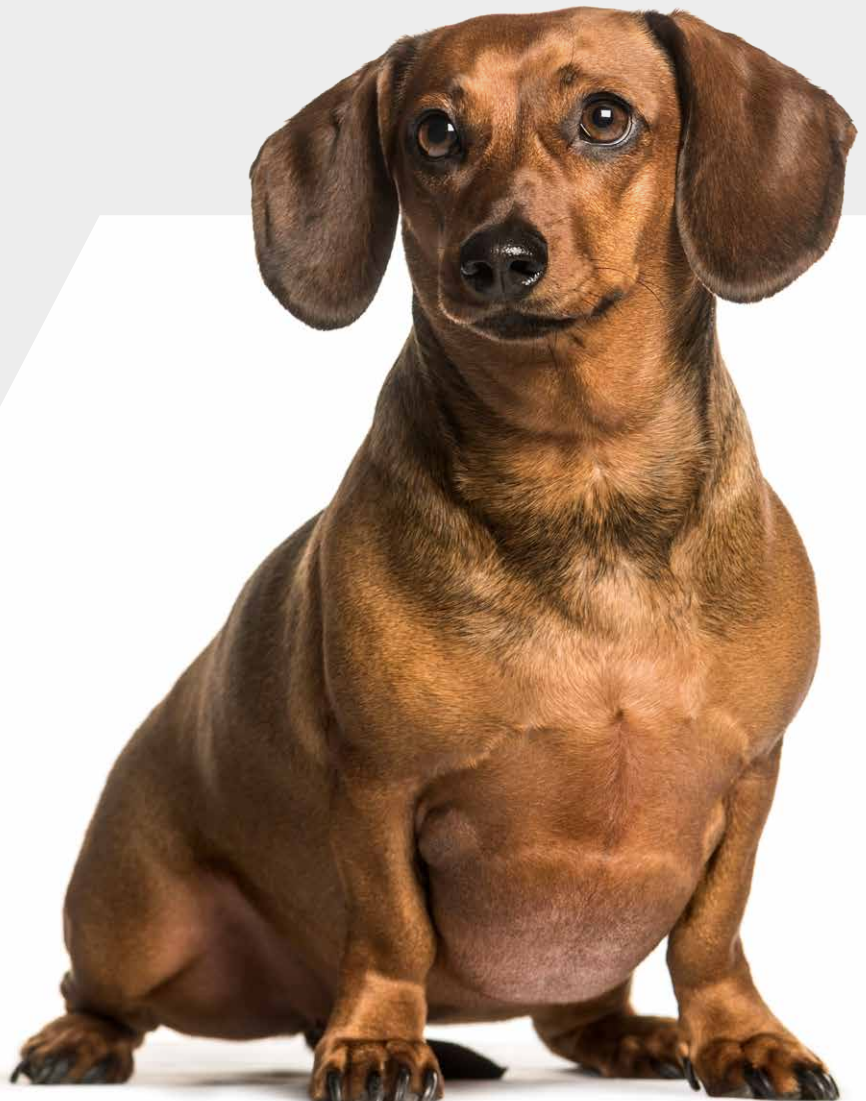


Overweight Dogs

Owner information sheet





Your dog has been fully health checked by one of our vets and is currently considered overweight. Dogs should be exercised several times daily, but it is better to start off with regular short walks rather than too many long walks as your dog needs to build up muscle and fitness gradually to prevent joint problems. Start off with regular short walks to build up muscle and fitness gradually.

Feed a good quality dog food; high in protein and with reduced carbohydrates to help reduce feelings of hunger. Commercial dog food has suggested daily amounts for different sizes and weights of dog on the packaging. An ideal weight range for your dog should have been noted on the Veterinary Report you were given. Feed the recommended amount of food for the lower end of your dog's ideal weight range, rather than for their current weight and they should start to lose weight naturally. In some cases, a specialised 'light' or 'obesity' diet may be necessary. Any treats for training purposes should be taken from their daily food rations. Dental sticks, and other treats, are high in calories and should only be avoided, along with feeding scraps from the table.

If your dog is due to return to one of our vet clinics for neutering or dental treatment then we will need to check that they have lost enough weight before booking them in, as there are greater risks associated with anaesthesia and surgery in overweight dogs. Please call our central clinic number for an outpatient appointment 3-4 weeks after homing so that your dog can be weighed and have their body condition assessed by one of our vets.

Telephone: 08455 571 062 and press option 1 to leave a message if the phone is not answered.

It may take some time for your dog to lose their excess weight. We are happy to see them back every 3-4 weeks by appointment to monitor their progress. If your pet fails to lose weight at all, despite sticking rigidly to a diet plan, you might need to discuss this further with your own vet. Unfortunately, if your pet fails to lose the weight we have advised then we might not be able to carry out any planned outpatient surgery due to the increased anaesthetic risk.