

Underweight Dogs

Owner information sheet





Your dog has been examined by one of our vets on entry to the centre and has been considered underweight for the size breed of dog. Once your dog has had a chance to settle into its new home and their stress levels start to reduce, they should start to gain weight naturally. Dogs should be exercised daily, but avoid too many long walks with your underweight dog. It is better to build up the walks gradually to improve their fitness and allow them to gain a healthy weight before tackling longer walks which would burn more calories and possibly counteract the weight-gain efforts.

It is important to feed a high quality dog food so that your dog gets a balanced diet. There are many different diets available and your vet will be able to guide you on the options. Initially it may be useful to feed 3-4 smaller meals each day. Aim to have your dog on a consistent and monitored diet plan to help them gain weight in a healthy way.

Our kennel staff should be able to advise you what amount of food your dog is currently being fed. Commercial dog food has suggested daily amounts for different sizes of dog on the packaging. An ideal weight range for your dog should have been noted on the Veterinary Report in the paperwork you have been given. Feed the amount of food recommended for your dog's ideal weight rather than their current weight to allow gradual weight gain.

Monitor your dog's weight gain by returning to one of our centres to have them weighed every 2 - 3 weeks or take them to your own vet for a weight check. Please remember to be careful that they do not gain too much weight by reducing their food allowance as appropriate once they are in a healthy weight range.

If your dog is due to return to one of our vet clinics for neutering or dental treatment, then we would like to check that they are gaining weight effectively before booking them in for the procedure to ensure they are as fit as possible for the anaesthetic. Please call our central vet clinic for an outpatient appointment 3-4 weeks after homing so that your dog can be weighed and assessed by one of our vets.

Telephone: 08455571062 and press option 1 to leave a message if the phone is not answered.

Please state your name and your dog's reference number (from the top of the Veterinary Report) along with a contact telephone number.

Occasionally dogs have dietary sensitivities that can lead to them passing loose stools and failing to gain weight. These dogs often need special diets. If your dog has demonstrated food sensitivity whilst in our care, and is on a special diet, this will be recorded in the veterinary history you have been provided with. If this is the case, then feeding extra titbits or another type of dog food may prevent affected dogs from gaining weight properly as they could cause vomiting or diarrhoea.