

CANINE OBESITY

The Issue

- Obesity exists when body weight is 20% or more over the optimum weight for your dog.
- Even if your dog seems happy and healthy, excessive weight can predispose dogs to diabetes, arthritis, cancer, heart conditions, and other health problems.

33% - 44%
of pet dogs
and **68%** of
Americans are
overweight or
obese

Lund et al., 2006
The Lancet, 2011

The Cause

The most common and controllable causes are too much food, too little exercise, or both.

The Solution

- Just as for people, weight loss programs in dogs take time and commitment. Rapid weight loss is not healthy. A 15% weight loss can take 6 months or more. We recommend that you work closely with your veterinarian for the best results.
- Your veterinarian can eliminate any medical causes for excess weight and help you select a healthy feeding and exercise strategy for your dog.

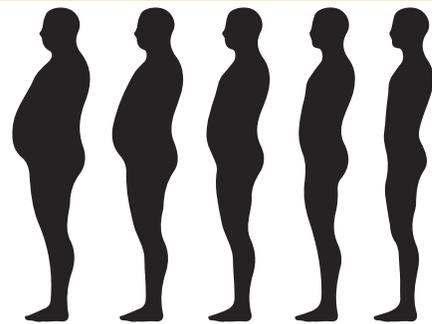
Check your dog's body condition

Under weight	Ribs and/or backbone are visible	
Healthy weight	Ribs are easily felt and the last rib is visible	
Overweight	You can feel fat between the skin and ribs	
Obese	Ribs are difficult to feel	

Remember

Talk to your physician about healthy weights for you and your children.

Human Body Conditions



References and Resources:

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