Tubby tabbies need new diet

"Fat is no more a health barometer than a dog's nose, and a 'pleasingly plump' pet could be suffering from malnutrition," say authorities at the American Almial Hospital Association (AAHA).
Obese or overweight pets have one thing in commo with overweight humans — an improper diet. In recent months the association has focused attention on fat cats and pudgy budgies.
"We have received some comments concerning malnutrition in nets. so we conducted a survey.

"We have received some comments concerning malnutrition in pets, so we conducted a survey. Frankly, we thought we would find that it was the exotic or uncommon pets that are suffering from malnutrition," said Dr. Louis J. Rossoni, a spokesman of the AAHA.

man of the AAHWA.

"We were somewhat amazed to find that 90 persons of the AAHWA.

"We were somewhat amazed to find that 90 persons of the verticant of the vet should focus malnutrition warnings on dogs, 87 percent on cast and 55 percent on birds. Very few mentioned other pets."

Diet also was the most important consideration for more than 80 percent of the veterinarians responding to the question, "What do you feel your clients should know about cats?"

It is sometimes hard for the average pet owner to determine if their pet is overweight or mainourished, and an overweight pet may be suffering from malnutrition.

SOME OF the problems of pet weight control are similar to human problems; it's a complex area, and each case requires individual attention. Here are a few rules supplied by Rossoni:

Weigh your pet. Get on a scale and note your weight. Then hold the pet and get on the scale again. Subtract the difference to get the weight of your pet.

Ask your veterinarian if your pet is about average in weight. He can usually spot a weight problem without using a scale.

Watch out for high calorie treats. Caution your children not to feed pets high sugar content foods which provide excess calories.

Ask your veterinarian for specific diet advice for your pet.

"Cats are about the only creatures we know which can actually suffer pain from a disease known as steatitis, which is caused by an improper disease of too much red meat tuna," Rossoni

diet of too much reu meas services perplained.
"If birds eat only seed, you will probably develop a fat bird suffering from malnutrition. A good, well-balanced diet and a moderate exercise program is the best answer for birds and animals, as well as man.
"Most pets will respond to a prescribed reducing diet with some weight loss in a month or two. If your pet doesn't lose weight within three months, consult your veterinarian."

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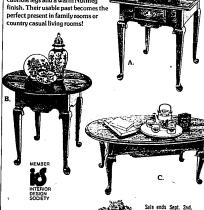
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