

I was reading the other day in the March 2010 pet age magazine (it's a magazine for pet businesses) about how are Pets are getting Fatter. They were saying the 35% of pet dogs are overweight 10% of pet dogs are Obese. 40% of pet cats are overweight and 18% of pet cats are Obese. That means 51% of our pet dogs and cats are overweight or obese. Just recently after 8 years one of Fernando's and Gingers puppies were returned to me and she in about 6 #'s overweight so for a little dog that would be obese. I questioned the person that returned her and got the usual I don't know why she is so fat, she doesn't get many treats and eats only this and that. Well let me tell you she showed me what she had been giving Pearl (that's her name) and I was appalled the treats alone would have been double the amount of calories she should have a day. So you guessed it Pearl is on a diet. The reason I am writing about this is because we have to realize as pet owners that the amount of food, treats and exercise is all on us if our pets are overweight it's our fault (yes sometimes there is a medical issue but rare). We are the ones who feed, treat, don't exercise and just give a little from the table. I read something recently that for every 1# extra a dog weights is like a person being about 13# overweight so Pearl in a since is about 78# in people overweight, think about the strain that has on joints, heart, lungs and other organs. I want Pearl to live the rest of her life healthy so I put her on a diet. I wish I had someone to give me my daily rations and took me exercising. If you need help in determining how many calorie your dog needs please come in and talk to Patti or Paula and we together can help you help your pet. Otherwise if you have an extra hour come to the Fernando and Ginger resource center and watch the Dr. Becker weight loss seminar. In short, it's important for pet owners to understand what the implications are of just a few extra pounds on a dog or cat.

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