



# Pet Nutrition ALLIANCE

Optimal Nutrition for Every Pet



**WSAVA**  
Global Veterinary Development

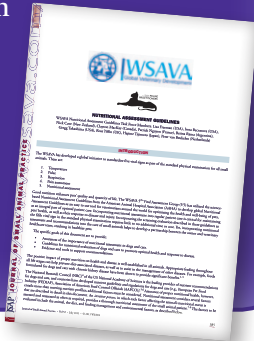
## WSAVA Nutritional Assessment Guidelines

# Implementing the Guidelines is as Easy as 1-2-3

## 1 What do the WSAVA Guidelines say?

Incorporate a nutritional assessment and specific dietary recommendation in the physical exam for every pet, every time they visit.

It's as simple as that.



## 2 What is included in the nutritional assessment?

**A. For every patient:** do a screening evaluation (nutritional history/activity level, body weight & body/muscle condition score)

**B. For a patient with abnormal physical exam findings or nutritional risk factors:**\* do an extended evaluation.

## 3 How do you incorporate the nutritional assessment within the physical exam?

### Screening Evaluation:

- Nutritional history/activity level
- Body weight
- Body/muscle condition score

**Normal Physical Exam**  
No nutritional risk factors identified

Make a specific dietary recommendation

**Abnormal Physical Exam Findings or nutritional risk factors identified**

### Extended Evaluation

Make a specific dietary recommendation



\*Nutritional risk factors listed on back

# How to ensure the **entire team** is working together to implement the *Guidelines*

WSAVA Nutritional Assessment Guidelines



## How to develop and customize a written protocol that works for your practice

Make a **team commitment** to acknowledge nutrition as a vital assessment and follow the *AAHA Nutritional Assessment Guidelines for Dogs and Cats* because your patients deserve it.

Together, develop a customized **written protocol** to ensure every patient receives a nutritional assessment and specific dietary recommendation at every visit. (See example on right)

Visit [WSAVA.org](http://WSAVA.org) to see the full *WSAVA Guidelines* and tips for bringing them to life in your practice.

Example of a protocol from practices already making nutrition a vital assessment

### CHECK IN

- Client fills out nutrition history/update form
- Weigh in
- Front desk staff** places nutrition history/update form in patient's records

### EXAM ROOM

- Veterinary technician** records history using nutrition history form to help ask questions and initiate discussion
- Veterinarian** performs a physical exam and nutritional assessment
- Veterinarian** makes a specific nutrition recommendation and documents the recommendation in patient's records
- Veterinary technician** fills out travel log, including nutrition recommendation
- Veterinary technician** asks client if there are any questions and reinforces the recommendation
- Veterinary technician** dispenses tools (measuring cups, literature about nutrition, information packet)
- Veterinary technician** sends patient home with an information packet even if they don't purchase recommended food

### CHECK OUT

- Front desk staff** asks client again if there are any questions
- Front desk staff** dispenses food and reinforces recommendation
- Front desk staff** schedules a callback in 2-7 days if recommendation is for a new food
- Front desk staff** enters reminder code for re-purchase of food two weeks before food will run out

### \* Nutritional risk factors:

- Lifestage considerations
- Abnormal BCS or MCS
- Poor skin or hair coat
- Systemic or dental disease
- Snacks, table food > 10% of total calories
- Unconventional diet
- Gastrointestinal upset
- Inadequate or inappropriate housing



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*"Including nutrition in the screening portion of an evaluation is paramount to providing the best care to pets. The WSAVA guidelines will take this message to a global level and help develop a partnership between pet owner and their veterinary hospital."*

Jolle Kirpensteijn, DVM, PhD, DACVS, DECVS  
WSAVA President