



"Clover" - Cat with Torn Knee Ligaments



Cookie

A vital part of your pet's regular health check is to have him or her weighed. Pets who come in for regular vaccinations and check ups will nearly always have their weight recorded for our records, even when they are in the best of health. This allows us to monitor trends in their weight.

Frequently, the first sign of an illness can be weight loss, even when the animal appears quite well to its owner. We can also see if an animal's weight is gradually creeping up – and warn the owner to reduce their food intake before they get too fat (the animal that is, not the owner!).

I recently saw "Cookie", an 11 year old cat, for his six monthly health check. Cookie is a "big framed" cat at the best of times, and is never going to be around the 4Kg mark of the average cat, but keeping him to a reasonable weight has always been a problem, as he is a voracious eater! 6 months ago he reached an all time high of 7.2Kg – considerably more than many of the dogs we see! I strongly advised that he be put on a strict diet.

Dieting cats is not always easy, especially if they live with other cats and the food is left down for them to help themselves to. Another problem can be that other people may feed your cat – either on purpose, or by your cat using other peoples' cat flaps etc! And hunting/scavenging can provide extra calories that you may be unaware of. There is no doubt that considerable effort and dedication is needed to fight the flab!

Cookie's owners had their work cut out as they had another cat, and Cookie would pinch his food at any opportunity. Thus, they have spent the last 6 months constantly picking up and putting down food bowls to make sure only the correct cat gets the correct amount of food. The whole family have had to be "on side", to make sure that everyone understands the importance of being strict, and no-one gives in to Cookie's pestering for food, for a quiet life!

Their efforts were rewarded last week when Cookie weighed in at 6.2Kg – a reasonable weight for his frame. So long as he keeps off the cookies, all should be well!

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