Web Clinic Guide

New Veterinary Secrets Guide: Acupressure Charts, Symptom Finder, Pet Home Recipes

This web seminar is designed to give you a basic understanding of holistic animal care, the 5 primary healing modalities, along with specific instructions to start use these alternative techniques.

You will learn about what food is best to feed your dog and cats for health and disease, which vaccines should be given (if any at all), and specific conventional medications to avoid. The most effective natural remedies to common pet diseases are detailed, with step by step directions on how you can apply these to your dog and cats health problems.

This guide includes an exhaustive pet symptom finder, pet recipes, and the acupressure points and charts that you can refer to.
Acupressure Charts
KEY
BL = Urinary Bladder
CV = Conception Vessel
GB = Gall Bladder
GV = Governing Vessel
HT = Heart
LI = Large Intestine
LIV = Liver
LU = Lung
PC = Pericardium
SI = Small Intestine
SP = Spleen
ST = Stomach
TH = Triple Heater
Symptoms are a sign of disease. The following list is very extensive, and covers the most common dog and cat symptoms of disease.

With each symptom, a few possible causes are included. Please note that there can be many possible causes of any particular symptom – this list covers only a few likely causes.

**Abdominal Distension**: the belly or abdomen is distended or sticking out. Causes: Fluid accumulation, be it in the form of blood (i.e. bleeding mass), urine from a ruptured bladder, or exudates (as in pus) from an infection or fluid accumulation from heart failure. FIP in cats will cause this. Other causes include cancer-causing distension of the organs – i.e. enlarged spleen, liver or intestinal masses.

**Alopecia**: hair loss on an area that typically has hair. Causes: allergies, skin mites, external parasites, self trauma, food reactions, endocrine disorders such as hypothyroidism or diabetes.

**Anemia**: low Red Blood Cell Counts. Your pet seems weak and tired. The inside of her gums and eyelids are pale or white instead of pink. Causes: blood loss: from parasites, such as fleas or hookworms; immune disorders, where the body’s immune system attacks the red blood cells; internal bleeding, such as what occurs with spleen tumors and subsequent blood loss; chronic diseases, such as hypothyroidism or ongoing skin infections.
**Anorexia**: your pet is not eating. You need to look for an underlying cause. This can be a decrease in appetite, or it can be that your dog or cat completely stops eating. If this has persisted, then your pet may be lethargic, weak – although you should not wait this long for clinical signs to appear. Causes: These are varied. Can include a sore tooth, to an abscess, to cancer. The important thing here is to get your dog or cat eating again before a 24 hour period of anorexia causes further illness. This is especially important for cats who can develop a condition called ‘Fatty Liver’ if they go for 48 hours or more without eating.

**Back and Neck Pain**: Your pet is unable to speak, but she can communicate well with body language. She may be hunched over, or have her spine twisted to one side. She will be in pain and may have trouble moving or cry when you pick her up. Causes: Back pain is particularly common in low, long dogs, such as Dachshunds. We also see it in the highly active dogs that do a lot of jumping, such as Border Collies. Anything that puts undue pressure on the spine can cause a back spasm.

**Bad Breath**: Your pet has smelly breath with yellow or brown teeth. His gums may be red and he may have difficulty chewing. Causes: Pets cannot brush their teeth and dental problems are the result. Plaque, a thin coat of bacteria, accumulates on the teeth, then it progresses to tartar, leading to gum inflammation. Bacteria also grows under the gum-line, causing gum infection (gingivitis) which can lead to tooth loss if not treated. Cats are prone to a specific type of dental problem called a FORL (Feline Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesion). This is equivalent to a cavity where the tooth decays at the gum line. Other causes include mouth cancer, or salivary gland infections.

**Blindness**: loss of vision in both eyes. This is rare, some of the causes include Sudden acquired retinal degeneration (SARD), a disease of unknown cause, cataracts, progressive retinal atrophy, trauma, glaucoma, damage to the optic nerve, cancer, and lead poisoning.

**Bloody Diarrhea**: also called melena. Typically there is bleeding up higher in the intestinal tract. Causes include bleeding disorders, foreign bodies, HGE (Hemorragic Gastroenteritis), bleeding from ulcers secondary to being on NSAIDS (non steroidal anti-inflammatories). In other cases there can be bright red blood in the stool - this means bleeding lower down in the colon. Causes are commonly food allergies, anal gland infections.
**Bloody Urine**: also called hematuria. Signs include straining to urinate, or frequent urination. Causes include bladder infections, bladder stones, cancer. In cats this is a common presentation, and the cause is typically non infectious (feline lower urinary tract disease).

**Blood in Vomit - Hematemesis**: anything that is irritating and inflaming the upper intestinal tract. Common causes include medications (NSAIDS), foreign bodies, food reactions, cancer.

**Breathing Problems**: This is also called Dyspnea or Respiratory distress. It is seen as very difficult labored breathing. Some common causes include fluid accumulation from heart failure, lung disease, tumors, infections (i.e. pneumonia), obstructions, laryngeal paralysis. This is more common in the breeds with ‘pushed in faces’ or brachycephalics. Can be seen during times of stress – especially if the animal is too hot. In cats another common cause is Feline Asthma.

**Bruising**: abnormal bruising and bleeding is a result of some type of clotting disorder. It signifies a serious underlying problem. Common causes include low platelets (thrombocytopenia), usually immune mediated, rat poisons, inherited clotting disorders (i.e. Von Willebrand’s), and in end stage disease of DIC (disseminated intravascular coagulopathy).

**Bulging Eye**: Exophthalmus – here the eye is ‘bulging’ or protruding from the eye socket. Common causes include masses behind the eye, infections behind the eye (retrobulbar abscess), and increased pressure in the eye (glaucoma) causing the eye to bulge.

**Cloudy Eye**: typically you are seeing a film over the eye. Common causes include inflammation of the surface of the eye (keratitis). This is seen in pannus, lack of tear production or dry eye (KCS), glaucoma, infections, white lipid (fat) deposition on the surface of the eye, cataracts, uveitis.

**Collapse**: a sudden loss of energy causing your pet to fall. The main body systems causing this are the nervous system, muscle system or heart. Common causes include heart disease, lung disorders, anemia secondary to internal bleeding (i.e. splenic tumors), low blood cell counts secondary to AIHA (auto immune hemolytic anemia), Myesthenia Gravis is a neurologic disorder which intermittently causes collapse, unusual muscle disorders (myopathies) causing weakness.
Constipation: Your pet cries or strains when passing stool. The stools are hard and dry. Your pet has not had a bowel movement in 48 hours. Causes: Dogs often become constipated after a feast on bones. Older pets, especially cats, get constipated due to decreased activity and lowered fluid intake. Some pets, such as Manx cats, are prone to constipation. Male dogs may get an enlarged prostate gland which can obstruct the colon, also leading to constipation.

Coughing: that loud, irritating hack keeping you awake at night. Causes: coughing in dogs and cats is unusual. It is a sign of something irritating the airway. It can be caused by infections (Kennel Cough), heart disease, lung disease, or collapsing airways (tracheal collapse). In cats, the occasional cough is likely a hairball, although frequent coughing indicates a disease, such as feline asthma.

Deafness: the inability to hear. Causes: Commonly occurs in older pets, as the bones of the inner ear become ossified. Some medications can cause this, (Gentomicin, or chlorhexidine)-especially if the ear drum is punctured. Some pets can appear deaf with Chronic ear infections that block the ear canal. Cancer, and other grows can obstruct the ear canal.

Dehydration: most pet owners don't recognize the signs of dehydration until their pet is quite weak, so it's something that you should learn. You can suspect dehydration in any pet with fluid loss via diarrhea, vomiting, or excess heat. Causes: Dehydration is usually seen secondary to fluid loss in your pet. Diarrhea and vomiting are the 2 most common causes. Many other diseases lead to dehydration, most notable is chronic renal failure in cats. TEST FOR DEHYDRATION. The first test for dehydration is ‘tenting’ the skin. Pinch the skin between your pet's shoulder blades and see how quickly it springs back. It should go back in less than 5 seconds. If the skin tent is prolonged, then your pet is dehydrated.

Diarrhea: soft liquidy poop found in a pile on the rug under the kitchen table. In some cases of diarrhea there may be only small amounts of mucous, but frequent straining. Diarrhea can also be an ongoing problem. Causes: Anything that upsets the digestive tract and results in water not being absorbed produces diarrhea. Some common causes include dietary indiscretion (eating compost), parasites (Giardia or Roundworms), food allergy, infectious causes (Salmonella), inflammatory changes (Inflammatory Bowel Disease, common in cats; similar to Crohn's disease in people), and pancreatic abnormalities (Pancreatic insufficiency, common in German Shepherds).
**Difficulty swallowing:** Dysphagia is the vet term for difficulty swallowing. Some of the causes include: trigeminal neuropathy (a cranial nerve disorder) – where the jaw may hang open, masticatory myositis (inflammation of the muscles around the mouth) – here the jaw is difficult to open. The nerve disorder myasthenia gravis often shows as difficulty swallowing. Masses in the area will cause dysphagia.

**Drinking and Urinating frequently:** known as polydypsia and polyuria. There are numerous causes of increased drinking and increased urination in pets. Common causes include: diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, Cushing’s disease (hyperadrenocorticism), liver disease, high blood calcium, diabetes insipidus (inability of the kidneys to absorb water), hyperthyroid disease in cats, pyometra (uterine infections) in unsprayed dogs/cats.

**Drooling:** Ptyalism is the veterinary term to describe excessive salivation. In some breeds this is normal (think Great Dane) but other causes include: anything irritating the oral cavity - such as mouth infections, tooth abscess, mouth ulcers (i.e. feline calicivirus), some type of oral toxic injury (i.e. electrical burn), and commonly drooling with being nauseous. This is seen in dogs consuming garbage, etc. Animals with liver shunts will drool excessively.

**Ear Infections:** your pet keeps shaking his head and scratching at his ears. Often you will see a foul-smelling black, yellow or brown discharge. The ears may be very red and tender. Causes: Ear mites are infectious parasites primarily found in young cats. They are spread through direct contact from cat to cat. Ear infections are most typical in dogs. Most ear infections are caused by an underlying allergy. Some are caused by water in the ear after bathing or swimming. Dogs with large floppy ears, such as Basset Hounds, are prone to infections as their ear canals have poor air circulation, trapping moisture and allowing bacteria and yeast to grow.

**Ear Tip Swollen:** the Veterinary term is aural hematoma. Most common cause is a chronic ear infection, head shaking and scratching, which leads to damage to the blood vessels on the ear tip producing blood in the flap of the ear.

**Eye Tearing:** this is excessive tearing. Complete or partial closure of the tear ducts commonly causes this. Anything that irritates the eye can cause this – i.e. eye infections, foreign body in the eye.
**Face Swollen:** the side of the face/muzzle is distended. Common causes are acute allergic reactions to insects/food (see hives), or infections secondary to bite wounds.

**Fever:** Your pet has a decreased appetite and lower energy. His ears are hot to the touch and he pants excessively in the house. **Causes:** A fever is usually caused by a bacterial or viral infection. Having a high temperature makes it more difficult for bugs to grow in the body. The problem with a fever in pets is that they will often stop drinking; dehydration then becomes the primary concern. A normal dog’s temperature is 101 F (38.0 C), a normal cat’s temperature is 102 F (38.5 C). Taking your pet’s temperature involves placing a thermometer in their rectum. If your pet has a temperature of 103.5 F (39.5 C) or more, they have a fever. Your pet usually will have a fever in response to something going on in their body. The most common cause, I find, is bite wounds. Search your dog or cat well for punctures.

**Flatulence:** No explanation needed. **Causes:** Flatulence is not a serious problem. It’s your pet’s way of telling you that there is something indigestible in his diet. Undigested food in the colon rapidly ferments causing excessive gas production. Some commercial foods contain higher sources of non-meat protein (such as corn), and will produce more gas. Some dogs are more prone to excessive gas production. These dogs may have excessive production in the stomach, leading to a severe medical condition called Bloat. In this case, the stomach rapidly distends and it is a serious condition requiring immediate veterinary care (see Bloat).

**Hair loss:** Your pet’s fur is falling out and patches of skin are visible. Your pet may be itchy with red, inflamed skin. Your couch looks like a giant fur ball. **Causes:** Pets continuously grow and lose hair. When your pet is shedding and losing their winter coat thousands of strands of hair will be lost. However, hair loss producing bald patches can be caused by allergies, external parasites, ringworm, mange and hormonal problems such as hypothyroidism.

**Hearing loss:** the inability to hear. **Causes:** Commonly occurs in older pets, as the bones of the inner ear become ossified. Some medications can cause this, (Gentomicin, or chlorhexidine) - especially if the ear drum is punctured. Some pets can appear deaf with chronic ear infections that block the ear canal. Cancer, and other grows can obstruct the ear canal.

**Halitosis:** also known as bad breath. Pets cannot brush their teeth and dental problems are the result. Plaque, a thin coat of bacteria, accumulates on the teeth, then it progresses to tartar, leading to gum
inflammation. Bacteria also grows under the gum-line, causing gum infection (gingivitis) which can lead to tooth loss if not treated. Cats are prone to a specific type of dental problem called a FORL (Feline Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesion). This is equivalent to a cavity where the tooth decays at the gum line. Other causes include mouth cancer, or salivary gland infections.

**Head tilt:** the signs are affecting balance: stumbling and staggering, a head tilt to one side, an involuntary flickering of the eyes from side to side, circling, falling to one side, and possible droopy eye lids. In people you can liken this to Vertigo – you may lose your balance with a serious ear infection or head cold. Causes: The Vestibular area of your pet is what controls balance. It allows your pet to walk without falling, sends the signals to allow your pet’s limbs and eyes to move correctly. The causes vary – it can be idiopathic (no known cause, only inflammation of the vestibular apparatus), it can be caused by a tumor, an inner ear infection, or an emboli (clot). Idiopathic or Geriatric Vestibular Disease is the most common cause.

**Itching:** include constant or intermittent scratching, chronic paw licking, skin rashes, and recurring ear infections. Respiratory signs: runny eyes and nose. Intestinal signs: vomiting and diarrhea. Causes: Three main possibilities: external parasites, such as fleas; food, for dogs, beef protein is the most common, for cats, fish or milk are the most common food allergens; environmental, from pollens to house dust mites. The immune system overreacts and causes severe itchiness.

**Jaundice or icterus:** is the yellow color of the body tissues caused by increased bilirubin. Bilirubin is the breakdown product of red blood cells. The most common causes are liver disease, excessive breakdown of red blood cells (i.e. hemolytic anemia), and obstruction of the bile flow leaving the liver (i.e. cancer/blockages).

**Lack of appetite:** your pet is not eating. You need to look for an underlying cause. This can be a decrease in appetite, or it can be that your dog or cat completely stops eating. If this has persisted, then your pet may be lethargic, weak – although you should not wait this long for clinical signs to appear. Causes: These are varied. Can include a sore tooth, to an abscess, to cancer. The important thing here is to get your dog or cat eating again before a 24 hour period of anorexia causes further illness. This is especially important for cats who can develop a condition called ‘Fatty Liver’ if they go for 48 hours or more without eating.
Licking: this is typically seen with allergies, or pets that have a specific irritated area. Your pet may have a lick granuloma, irritated mass, allergy, underlying painful joint (arthritis), or in cats licking the groin may signify a painful irritated bladder.

Lameness: your pet is partially or not fully weight bearing on a leg. Causes include arthritis, injuries, infections, fractures, immune mediated joint disorders, cancer (especially bone cancer in large breeds). Anterior Cruciate ligament rupture is a common cause for many medium to large breeds.

Leaking Urine: this is also known as Urinary Incontinence. Most commonly you will find a pool of urine when your dog wakes up in the morning. Other times you will see urine leak from your pet when awake. The most common cause is estrogen responsive incontinence as seen in spayed female dogs. Damage to the nerves which control bladder function can lead to incontinence.

Lethargy: your pet is feeling sick – no energy, withdrawn, not wanting to play, interact, eat or drink much. There are numerous causes, and this signals that something is wrong. Your pet may have a fever, caused by an infection, bite wound, immune mediated disease or cancer. They may have anemia, heart disease, or organ dysfunction. In some cases they may just be physically tired – but most commonly in pets a more serious underlying disorder is the cause.

Losing Weight: weight loss in dogs or cats typically signifies a more serious underlying health problem. Some common causes include parasites, chronic vomiting/diarrhea, hyperthyroid disease in cats, cancer, organ dysfunction making your pet unable to digest nutrients properly. In cats chronic renal failure is a common cause, as it hyperthyroidism and diabetes.

Mammary Gland Swelling: the mammary glands swell for a few causes. Normal swelling occurs in pregnancy - the glands enlarge to produce milk. In some animals there is pseudopregnancy, and the glands swell. Other causes include breast cancer, and benign mammary gland hyperplasia.

Nasal Discharge: this can be clear or blood tinged. Anything irritating the respiratory tract can cause nasal discharge. Causes include viral infections (i.e. kennel cough, cat flu), foreign body, tooth root abscess, or allergies.
**Nose Bleeding:** Epistaxis – this is bleeding from the nose. Common causes include tooth abscess, nasal tumors, infections, bleeding disorders.

**Not Urinating:** in this case your pet is either not producing urine, or something is obstructing the urine. Common causes include bladder stones, or masses in the urinary tract, End stage kidney failure (such as caused by Antifreeze toxicity in cats).

**Over Eating:** called polyphagia. The most common causes are diabetes, Cushings disease, and hyperthyroid disease in cats.

**Pain:** the important thing here is to be able to recognize signs of pain, especially following surgery. Pain receptors are found all through your pets body. Signs of pain include: change in behavior, your pet may be quieter than normal, hiding, depressed, restlessness, panting and pacing. They may be lame or reluctant to move and get up or stiff. They may vocalize more, growling, howling, yipping, moaning, groaning, and they may have increased breathing, increased heart rate and lack of appetite. Causes of pain include trauma, hyperthermia, hypothermia, damage to surface tissue, damage to bones, organs, joints or ligaments.

**Painful urination:** Dysuria - difficult or painful urination. Common causes include bladder infection, bladder stones, neoplasia (cancer).

**Panting:** this is rapid, shallow breathing. Normal breathing rates are 20-40 breaths a minute. In panting this increases to 200-400 breaths a minute. This is how your dog cools themselves, so a common cause is normal panting from being too hot. Other causes include pain, stress, Cushing’s disease, heart disease, toxins such as antifreeze poisoning (leads to a metabolic acidosis and increased breathing rates).

**Penis discharge:** Prepuce discharge - discharge from the sheath of the penis, typically seen in intact male dogs. Urine and fluid accumulates in the sheath, allowing bacteria to grow, producing the discharge. Most are ‘cured’ by neutering, but some will need antiseptic flushes.

**Red Eye:** here the eye is irritated and inflamed. The blood vessels around the eye become more pronounced and distended. Common causes include: conjunctivitis, blepaharitis (inflammation of the eye lids), glaucoma, uveitis (inflammation of the inner layer of the eye).
**Regurgitation:** It is important to understand the difference between vomiting and regurgitation. Regurgitation is PASSIVE - not an active motion as in vomiting. Regurgitation typically happens immediately while or after eating/drinking. The food is not digested and often appears as a tube. Common causes of regurgitation in dogs are Myesthenia gravis, immune disease affecting the esophagus, lead poisoning, thyroid disease. The esophagus is distended in a condition called megaesophagus.

**Runny Eyes:** veterinary term is Epiphora. This is excessive tearing. Complete or partial closure of the tear ducts commonly causes this. Anything that irritates the eye can cause this – i.e. eye infections, foreign body in the eye.

**Scratching:** the veterinary term is pruritis. Signs include constant or intermittent scratching, chronic paw licking, skin rashes, and recurring ear infections. Respiratory signs: runny eyes and nose. Intestinal signs: vomiting and diarrhea. Causes: Three main possibilities: external parasites, such as fleas; food, for dogs, beef protein is the most common, for cats, fish or milk are the most common food allergens; environmental, from pollens to house dust mites. The immune system overreacts and causes severe itchiness.

**Scooting:** in this case your dog or cat is rubbing their bum on the ground. Most commonly seen with anal gland irritation or impaction. Anal irritation is also seen with allergies. In some cases parasites can be the cause.

**Seizure:** here the brain sends out too many impulses causing the muscles to contract involuntarily. You may first find signs of apparent loss of bowel and bladder control if your pet seizures when you are not present. A seizure is the involuntary contraction of muscles. They may show up as the severe form in which the head is extended, legs are firm and rigid and your dog ‘paddles‘ with them uncontrollably. In some pets the seizures are less intense and show up as generalized muscle trembling. Causes: There is no specific cause of epilepsy. There is an area of the brain that is overactive sending out too many impulses causing the abnormal muscle contractions (seizures). Epilepsy is diagnosed based on age of onset (6 months to 5 years), and by finding nothing else abnormal on diagnostic tests that could explain the cause of seizures. Seizuring older pets may have a brain tumor. Cats who seizure may have an infectious disease (Feline Leukemia).
**Shaking**: these are involuntary movements that occur when your pet is awake, but NOT when they are asleep. Most often there is no underlying cause, but they are seen with poisons (i.e. compost toxicity), degenerative brain disorders, kidney failure, low blood sugar.

**Skin growths or lumps**: most lumps are easy to feel. They may show up on the chest or along the back. Most lumps on dogs are benign, while lumps that appear on cats are often cancerous. Often while petting your pet a cyst becomes noticeable. Causes: as your pet ages, its immune system becomes less effective and lumps and bumps become more prevalent. Common dog lumps are lipomas (benign fatty tumors) and sebaceous cysts (a skin gland that blocks up).

**Skin discharge** and/or smelling: typically this is caused by infections on the skin. Dogs with chronic allergies can get recurring bacterial infections (usually Staph) or yeast infections (Malasezzia). Prevention may include regular shampoos or washing with dilute vinegar and water.

**Sneezing**: anything that irritates the nasal tract can cause sneezing. Causes include viral infections (i.e. kennel cough, cat flu), foreign body, tooth root abscess, or allergies. Dogs commonly have a reverse sneeze, - other lesser known causes are nasal mites.

**Temperature**: Your pet has a decreased appetite and lower energy. His ears are hot to the touch and he pants excessively in the house. Causes: A fever is usually caused by a bacterial or viral infection. Having a high temperature makes it more difficult for bugs to grow in the body. The problem with a fever in pets is that they will often stop drinking; dehydration then becomes the primary concern. A normal dog’s temperature is 101 F (38.0 C), a normal cat’s temperature is 102 F (38.5 C). Taking your pet’s temperature involves placing a thermometer in their rectum. If your pet has a temperature of 103.5 F (39.5 C) or more, they have a fever. Your pet usually will have a fever in response to something going on in their body. The most common cause, I find, is bite wounds. Search your dog or cat well for punctures.

**Throwing Up**: your pet is throwing up her food and/or water. He may be throwing up bile on an empty stomach. You may not witness vomiting, but find the evidence on the floor. Causes: The list is large, although the most common cause is garbage gut. Your pet consumes something he should not have, resulting in vomiting. Other causes include: medications, parasites, food allergies, liver or kidney disease, pancreatitis, cancer, infectious causes (parvovirus), metabolic disorders (thyroid disease or...
Tremors: these are involuntary movements that occur when your pet is awake, but NOT when they are asleep. Most often there is no underlying cause, but they are seen with poisons (i.e. compost toxicity), degenerative brain disorders, kidney failure, low blood sugar.

Urinary Incontinence: this is also known as leaking urine. Most commonly you will find a pool of urine when your dog wakes up in the morning. Other times you will see urine leak from your pet when awake. The most common cause is estrogen responsive incontinence as seen in spayed female dogs. Damage to the nerves which control bladder function can lead to incontinence.

Urinating and Drinking excessively or Polydypsia/Polyuria: there are numerous causes of increased drinking and increased urination in pets. Common causes include: diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, cushings disease (hyperadrenocorticism), liver disease, high blood calcium, diabetes insipidus (inability of the kidneys to absorb water), hyperthyroid disease in cats, pyometra (uterine infections) in unsprayed dogs/cats.

Vaginal discharge: this can be clear and mucous or bloody. Some common causes can be vaginal infections (vaginitis), where urine can pool in the vaginal folds and grow bacteria. Other causes include estrus, pregnancy, after birth (post partum)- it is normal for 14 days after.

Vomiting: your pet is throwing up her food and/or water. He may be throwing up bile on an empty stomach. You may not witness vomiting, but find the evidence on the floor. Causes: The list is large, although the most common cause is garbage gut. Your pet consumes something he should not have, resulting in vomiting. Other causes include: medications, parasites, food allergies, liver or kidney disease, pancreatitis, cancer, infectious causes (parvovirus), metabolic disorders (thyroid disease or diabetes), physical obstructions (a ball or a bone), and primary motility disorders (the stomach doesn’t contract normally).

Weight Loss: weight loss in dogs or cats typically signifies a more serious underlying health problem. Some common causes include parasites, chronic vomiting/diarrhea, hyperthyroid disease in cats, cancer,
organ dysfunction making your pet unable to digest nutrients properly. In cats chronic renal failure is a common cause, as it hyperthyroidism and diabetes.

**Wounds:** your pet has a flap of skin that is hanging. There may or may not be bleeding. Dogs are prone to lacerations on their feet or pads from glass or sharp rocks. Your pet may be limping or excessively licking a certain area. Not all wounds are clearly visible as they may be covered by hair. **Causes:** many things can cause injuries to your pet. Dog and cat fights can lead to large wounds. Dogs are prone to pad lacerations from any pointed object on the ground. Certain pets (such as crazy little Jack Russels) are less cautious and more prone to wounds.

**Diagnosis: When It's Time to Call the Vet**

Most pets will display one or more of these symptoms of illness at some point during their lives, but there isn't always a need to rush them directly to the vet. Symptoms that only last a day and do not seem severe may simply need to run their course. However, a consultation with your vet is in order when:

- Symptoms increase or intensify over a 24 hour period.
- Symptoms last for more than a day.
- The animal in question is in obvious distress.
Pet Food That You Make At Home

The best foods for your pet are those that you make at home, yourself. Why? Simply because you know the ingredients, and you know what you are feeding is fresh.

You can pre-make large batches, freeze it, and then add vitamin/mineral supplements when it’s time to feed. Any vitamin or mineral supplement you use should be a good quality, human grade supplement, if you are not using one specifically designed for pets. Some of the cheaper human supplements, particularly those with a heavy coating, are not well digested by people and will not be by animals.

If you are using human supplements, keep in mind that the average human supplement is designed for a 150-pound adult. A cat should get about 1/6 to 1/10 of a human supplement. A dog dosage can be calculated from the weight of the dog compared to 150 pounds. Do not overdose! Some vitamins and many minerals are toxic at high doses.

Any bone meal you use must be an edible, human grade. Do not use bone meal intended for gardening or plants.

Here are 2 diets that I have cooked for my dog and cat.

**Dog Fish and Sweet Potato Recipe** (based on a 75 lb dog)

- Baked Sweet potato - 4 cups
- Cooked Fish, trout, - 1 1/2 cups
- Fish Oil - 5 teaspoons
- One a Day Multivitamin/multimineral Supplement - 2 tablets
- Posture caplet - (600 mg elemental calcium) - 2 1/2 caplets
- Morton Lite Salt Mixture - 1 tsp

Cook Protein, Carbohydrate and Vegetables.

Prior to serving each meal and after warming, add the appropriate amount of supplement to the food.

Mix thoroughly. Heating supplements that contain vitamins can destroy their effectiveness.

The amount of supplement shown above is the daily amount.
The Basic Cat Recipe

- Fresh boneless skinless chicken breast -1 pound
- Fish oil -1 Tablespoon
- Morton's lite salt 1/4 tsp
- Iodinated salt 1/4 tsp
- Calcium carbonate without vitamin D (regular Tums) 3 grams
- Adult multivitamin-mineral supplement - 1 tablet
- Taurine powder (essential for cats) 1/4 tsp (or 1 - 500 mg tablet)

Sauté chopped chicken breast in oil until thoroughly cooked.

Grind Tums (calcium carbonate), multi vitamin/mineral tab, and taurine supplement together.

Add to cooled mixture. Store in refrigerator.

Homemade Cancer Diet for Dogs (and Cats)

Lean ground beef, fat drained 454 grams (1 pound)
Rice, cooked 227 grams (1⅓ cups)
Liver, beef 138 grams (⅓ pound)
Vegetable oil 63 grams (4½ tablespoons)
Fish oil 9 grams (nine 1,000 mg fish oil caps)
Calcium carbonate 3.3 grams (five Tums with calcium)
Salt substitute (potassium chloride) 1.9 grams (⅓ teaspoon)
Adult multivitamin 1 tablet
Taurine (for cats only) 500 mg

Cook the rice with salt substitute added to the water. Cook the ground beef and drain the fat. Cook the liver and dice or finely chop into small pieces. Pulverize the calcium carbonate and vitamin/mineral tablets. Mix the vegetable oil, fish oil (break open capsules), and supplements with the rice and add the cooked ground beef and liver. Mix well, cover, and refrigerate. Feed approximately one-quarter of this mixture each day to a ten-pound dog or cat. Palatability will be increased if the daily portion is heated to approximately body temperature (caution: when using microwave, avoid “hot spots,” which can burn the mouth).
For more information about Dr. Jones’ Natural Animal Care Course, visit:

[www.veterinarysecrets.com/course](http://www.veterinarysecrets.com/course)
About Dr. Andrew Jones

Dr. Andrew Jones is a Veterinarian in Nelson BC, Canada. He has developed a special interest in natural and alternative ways to heal pets, and has written and produced several books and videos on at-home pet health care. He has also developed a unique home study course on pet healing titled the “Veterinary Secrets Revealed Complete Home Study Multimedia Course”. Dr. Jones’ goal is to empower pet owners to take a much more active role in caring for their pet’s health.

http://www.thecatsupplement.com

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Four Paws Online Ltd.
2124 Ymir Road, Nelson, BC, V1L 6Y9
(800) 396-1534 ~ support@fourpawsonlineltd.com

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