



**Animal
Adoption**



**Veterinary
Center**



718-544-PETS (7387) www.LowCostVet.org

How to Syringe Feed

When animals stop eating it means something is wrong. Until a visit to the vet for a diagnosis you can syringe feed. It is easy. Put into the blender 2 cans of food to 1 can of water (better yet, Children's unflavored Pedialyte from the pharmacy), mix for 3-4 minutes. Using Pedialyte instead of water to liquefy the canned food is better because it contains electrolytes which water does not. Electrolytes restore hydration. While at the pharmacy get a syringe (no needle comes with it of course), 5, 10, 20, or 40 ml size for cats and small dogs, and 50 or 60 ml size for medium and larger dogs. For every 10 lbs (an average cat) the animal must eat 120 ml of liquefied food per day. You can divide the total into 2 meals. If the animal vomits the half day amount, reduce the amount given and feed more frequently.

Cats especially must eat because if they do not, especially overweight ones, they start developing Hepatic Lipadosis otherwise known as Fatty Liver, which becomes a second reason not to eat. Once Fatty Liver develops, and it can develop in as little as 3 days of not eating, reversing it is usually harder and takes longer than the original cause for stopping to eat.

Many reasons can cause an animal to stop eating, Pancreatitis (inflammation of the Pancreas which can happen if human food or treats are given), swallowed foreign object, bowel blockage, urinary blockage, excess abdominal gas, infections of all sorts, upper respiratory tract infections, bruised bone, pulled muscle, torn ligament, kidney disease, dehydration, liver disease, Thyroid disease, diabetes, dental issues, etc.

So the best way to get some time until you can get to a vet, and even afterward possibly having to wait for bloodwork results, and minimize the effects of not eating on the animal is to syringe feed.

The key is to syringe feed enough without causing the animal to vomit. Also, place the syringe into the mouth from the SIDE of the mouth, not the front.

At first the animal will resist and turn his/her head, but once he/she realizes it is food that is being squirted into the mouth, the animal will swallow it willingly without fighting.

