

## Feeding My Cat

When you bring your kitten home for the first time, it is best to carry on feeding her the food she has been used to. Not all kitten foods are the same—some have much better-quality ingredients than others, for example. Which is why you might want to change your kitten's food to one recommended by your vet. You will need to do this over a period of 5 to 7 days; your vet will advise you on this. Mix the new food into her usual food, and gradually increase the amounts until only the new food is in your kitten's bowl.



As you can imagine, a kitten's stomach is tiny, so to begin with, she will need small but frequent meals. This means putting out fresh food in a clean bowl, up to 4 times a day until she is 6 months old.

### **Choose carefully**

A “complete” kitten food will provide all the vitamins and minerals your kitten needs in an easy-to-serve form, either as dry food, or wet in cans or pouches. If you are unsure which to buy, your vet will advise you about which is best for your pet. But whatever food you choose, follow the feeding guide on the pack, and be careful not to over feed your kitten.

### **Thirsty kittens**

Believe it or not, kittens do not need milk. And for some cats, cows' milk can cause diarrhea. So, if you want to give your kitten some milk, specially formulated cat milk is available. Notwithstanding that, please make sure your kitten always has a bowl of fresh clean water. If you suspect she is not drinking enough, it maybe she can taste chemicals in it, so give her still bottled water. Some cats even prefer to drink from flowing water sources, like fountains or dripping taps so you can buy water fountains designed especially for cats. And do not forget that if she is eating dry, crunchy food, it is essential you give her plenty of water.

### **Do not worry, being sick sometimes is normal**

If your kitten has a minor digestive problem, or needs to bring up a hairball, she will make herself-sick by eating grass. This is quite natural and there is nothing to worry about. But if the vomiting persists and you spot other symptoms, you will need to consult your vet.

*“Proper Feeding Habits for Your Kitten | Hill's Pet.” Hill's Pet Nutrition, [www.hillspet.com/cat-care/nutrition-feeding/feeding-kittens](http://www.hillspet.com/cat-care/nutrition-feeding/feeding-kittens).*

# Steps to Regulate Your Cat's Diet

It's important to feed your cat the right amount of food at proper intervals, but this can be tricky -- feeding requirements vary greatly from one cat to another. Feeding guides on the food can or bag are just a starting point. It's critical to your cat's health that her physical condition is monitored regularly and the feeding amount adjusted as needed:

To help keep your adult cat healthy, Hill's recommends following the simple steps in this cycle:

- Weigh your cat
- Feed her based on feeding guide and veterinary recommendations
- Evaluate your cat's physical condition using our body condition scoring system every two to three weeks for the first six months
- Adjust the amount you feed accordingly
- Repeat

## Switching food

If switching your cat to Hill's Science Diet Feline Adult Optimal Care, gradually introduce it over a 7-day period. Do this by mixing your cat's former food with increasing proportions of the new food, until only Science Diet is being fed. She will then be able to fully enjoy the taste and benefits of the superior nutrition provided by Science Diet Feline Adult Optimal Care.

## You and your vet

Your vet is the best source of information about the health and well-being of your cat. Ask your vet to advise regularly on your cat's weight because achieving and maintaining a pet's ideal weight not only reduces certain health risks, but can lead to your cat having a more energetic, longer and healthier life.

### **Ask your veterinarian which of these three feeding methods is best for your adult cat:**

Free Choice: Food is available to your cat at all times.

Time-Limited Feeding: Food is available to your cat for a limited time.

Meal Feeding: A measured amount of food is available to your cat at specific meal times each day.

## Water

Your cat must have an adequate supply of fresh water at all times. Not having water to drink for a sustained length of time can harm your cat's health.

## Treats & tidbits

Although it is tempting to give them table scraps they do not provide your cat with the correct balance of nutrients. Try to be sparing with treats, as giving too many can lead to weight gain or nutritional imbalance.

## The next step

At around seven years old your cat will reach the senior stage of life. The nutritional needs of older cats are different from those of younger adults, so you should change your pet's food. Hill's™ Science Diet



Mature Adult provides superior nutrition for cats aged seven and above. So by feeding your cat with Science Diet Mature Adult you can help keep her younger as she gets older.

Steps to Regulate Your Cat's Diet. [www.hillspet.com/cat-care/nutrition-feeding/how-much-to-feed-a-cat?gclid=b41877fea30811111be7286998879814&gclidsrc=3p.ds&msclkid=b41877fea30811111be7286998879814&utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=\(NEW\)%20HLN%20HIL%2060%20DIS\\_SD\\_Cat\\_EXT&utm\\_term=feeding%20cat&utm\\_content=Cats\\_Feeding](http://www.hillspet.com/cat-care/nutrition-feeding/how-much-to-feed-a-cat?gclid=b41877fea30811111be7286998879814&gclidsrc=3p.ds&msclkid=b41877fea30811111be7286998879814&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=(NEW)%20HLN%20HIL%2060%20DIS_SD_Cat_EXT&utm_term=feeding%20cat&utm_content=Cats_Feeding)

## Hill's® Science Diet® Kitten Chicken Recipe



Weight of Cat - lbs (kgs)	Amount per Day - cups (grams) - Growth less than 4 months	Amount per Day - cups (grams) - Growth 4 to 6 months	Amount per Day - cups (grams) - Growth 7 to 12 months and Pregnancy
1 (0,5)	1/4 (35)		
2 (0,9)	1/3 (45)		
3 (1,4)	1/2 (70)	3/8 (50)	
4 (1,8)	5/8 (85)	1/2 (70)	
6 (2,7)	3/4 (100)	2/3 (90)	1/2 (70)
8 (3,6)		7/8 (120)	2/3 (90)
10 (4,5)		1 (135)	3/4 (100)
12 (5,4)			7/8 (120)
14 (6,4)			1 (135)
16 (7,3)			1 1/8 (155)

Hill's® Science Diet® Kitten Chicken Recipe is formulated to meet nutritional levels established by the AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profiles for growing kittens and gestating or lactating adult female cats.

### HELPFUL TIPS

- Adjust feeding amounts as necessary to maintain optimal weight. If you are unsure, ask your veterinarian.
- New to this food? Mix increasing amounts of your pet's new food with decreasing amounts of the old food over a 7-day period.
- Keep fresh water available at all times!
- Your pet's nutritional needs may change as they age. Ask your vet at every checkup.
- To prevent suffocation, keep the packaging out of the reach of pets and children.



## Hill's® Science Diet® Adult Chicken Recipe Cat Food



Weight of Cat - lbs (kgs)	Amount per Day - cups (grams)
4 (1,8)	1/4 (30)
6 (2,7)	3/8 (45)
8 (3,6)	1/2 (65)
10 (4,5)	1/2 (65)
12 (5,4)	5/8 (80)
14 (6,4)	2/3 (85)
16 (7,3)	3/4 (95)

Hill's® Science Diet® Adult Chicken Recipe cat food is formulated to meet the nutritional levels established by the AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profiles for maintenance of adult cats.

### HELPFUL TIPS

- Adjust feeding amounts as necessary to maintain optimal weight. If you are unsure, ask your veterinarian.
- New to this food? Mix increasing amounts of your pet's new food with decreasing amounts of the old food over a 7-day period.
- Keep fresh water available at all times!
- Your pet's nutritional needs may change as they age. Ask your vet at every checkup.
- To prevent suffocation, keep the packaging out of the reach of pets and children.

