

Obese Cat Care SOP

Obese Cats are considered those who have a Body Condition Score of 4 or greater on a 5 point scale.

If using a 9 point BCS scale, an obese cat is an 8 or higher.

Obese cats are at escalated risk of hepatic lipidosis if they stop eating or eat significantly less. For this reason, any obese cat housed at the shelter will be handled with these protocols:

- The cat is to be weighed daily for the first week cat is at the shelter using a weight tracker form. The weights should be updated in ShelterLuv daily. If there is weight loss for two or more days in a row, submit a CVT.
- Once cat's weight has been stable for one week with no significant weight loss, cat will be weighed weekly versus daily. Weights will be entered into ShelterLuv.
- If there is any significant weight loss occurring (1%) from week to week, submit a CVT.
- An obese cat should not lose more than 0.5lb (8oz) per month.
- The cat is not to be placed on a diet or have restricted food intake without express veterinary orders.
- Staff will ensure cat is eating normal rations and communicate with one another daily regarding food intake.
- If an obese cat is not eating or eating normal rations, the Feline Hunger Strike Protocol is to be followed.