

IS YOUR DOG OVERWEIGHT?

~ What you need to know ~

Keeping dogs at a healthy weight will have a fantastic effect on their quality of life as they get older. Studies show that keeping a dog lean can add up to 2 years to his or her life. It helps reduce the risk of diabetes and heart disease and reduces the effects of arthritis on joints.

The 2010 annual study by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention shows that 55% of dogs in America fall in the overweight to obese range. So take a moment to study your dog. Take a look at his or her waistline just behind the rib cage. Is there a slight tuck to the waist? Is it a straight line? Or is the belly beginning to bulge outward a little? If so, it may be time to discuss a weight loss plan with your veterinarian.

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