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## OUR PETS AND ANIMALS NEED ATTENTION, TOO

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The Esther Honey Foundation

With the number of animals coming into the Esther Honey Foundation with problems related to diet, we have decided that it would be best to address the situation to the public.

Many problems with animals can be prevented with the right diet, which goes the same for us humans focused on a lot by the Ministry of Health. Overeating, not getting enough food, not eating the right kind of food, all have adverse effects on the body.

Overeating can cause obesity, arthritis, heart disease, liver disease, cholesterol issues, diabetes, and much more. You want to make sure that your animals are getting enough exercise as well as the right portions of food.

Not getting enough food can cause weak immune systems which make them more susceptible to diseases which a healthy dog could easily overcome, kidney disease, liver disease, starvation. Once again, a regular diet will ensure your animal is healthy and can fight problems that are in the environment. Making sure your animal gets the right kind of food is also important.

There are many things that people don't know are toxic to dogs and cats which can lead to serious consequences. Fish poisoning, obesity or underweight, weak/broken bones, weak immune system, bones lodged in internal organs, skin disease, vomiting, diarrhea. These can all be caused by not getting the right diet. Giving milk to animals that are no longer breast feeding is actually harmful to them. Cats are meat eaters, and dogs need a mixture in their diet much like we do.

For more information on the proper diet for any of your animals please contact the Esther Honey Foundation or the Ministry of Agriculture.

Weaning puppies too early causes growth abnormalities and death in many cases because they have a weak immune system. Puppies and kittens need the vital nutrients that can only be gained from breast milk. When we take them off too early they become more susceptible to diseases in the environment and often die. We have seen all these cases and really want to create a healthy environment for animals here in the Cook Islands. In most cases our animals depend on us giving them food and water, shelter from the sun and rain, and if they do get sick bringing them to the Esther Honey Foundation so we can help them get better.

When we have animals their lives are in our hands and we need to show them respect.