

THE INFLUENCE OF SOME ENDOGENOUS AND EXOGENOUS PREDISPOSING FACTORS IN OVERWEIGHT CATS

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Abstract

Overweight was identified and monitorized in a group of 23 cats that were included in a weight management programme at a veterinary clinic. The risk factors studied in the population of cats in relation with the body score (between 5.5-9 according to the body score scale provided by the WSAVA) were endogenous like breed, age, sex and neuter status of the cats.

It was elaborated a specific questionnaire before the enrolment of cats in the weight management programme, asking the owners to complete about their cats' eating behaviour, the type of used feed and the amount of food intake, to establish the caloric intake that contributes to their body weight.

The analysis of risk factors for feline obesity revealed exogenous causes that produce or enhance weight gain in cats, namely lack of room or limited space in which cats are kept, sedentary lifestyle and/or ad-libitum feeding offered by cat owners.

Key words: cats, overweight, obesity, risk factors