



Nutrition

THE 5TH VITAL ASSESSMENT

Example of a protocol taken from clinics that already make nutrition the 5th vital assessment.

CHECK IN

- Client fills out nutrition history/update form
- Weigh in
- Front desk staff** places nutrition history/update form in patient's records

EXAM ROOM

- Veterinary technician** records history using nutrition history form to help ask questions and initiate discussion
- Veterinarian** performs a physical exam and nutritional assessment
- Veterinarian** makes a specific nutrition recommendation and documents the recommendation in patient's records
- Veterinary technician** fills out travel log, including nutrition recommendation
- Veterinary technician** asks client if there are any questions and reinforces the recommendation
- Veterinary technician** dispenses tools (measuring cups, literature about nutrition, information packet)
- Every patient is sent home with an information packet even if they don't purchase recommended food

CHECK OUT

- Front desk staff** asks client again if there are any questions
- Front desk staff** dispenses food and reinforces recommendation
- Front desk staff** schedules a callback in 2-7 days if recommendation is for a new diet
- Front desk staff** enters reminder code for re-purchase of food two weeks before food will run out