



## What commercial or home-prepared diets are available for animals with a history of urolithiasis?

More and more, pet owners are partnering with the veterinary team to determine appropriate diets for their pets. Many pet parents contact us asking us to provide specific recommendations for managing individual dogs and cats with urinary stones. We would love to help, but this is not in the best interest of the pet. Without examining the dog or cat, reviewing its history and asking pertinent questions, we may be jeopardizing the overall health of this loving companion.

The Minnesota Urolith Center mineral specific prevention recommendations, which include optimum dietary characteristics for management of urolith patients, can be found at: [z.umn.edu/mnurolithRX](http://z.umn.edu/mnurolithRX) or at [urolithcenter.org](http://urolithcenter.org) under the Resources tab.

**Each of our recommendations contains characteristics to look for in prevention or treatment foods. Foods listed are those we are familiar with using. Other diets may be appropriate. However, we have not performed appropriate studies on home-prepared diets or on many commercial diets regarding their efficacy in the treatment or prevention of urolithiasis. If the foods suggested do not meet your needs, the flowsheet for your pet's urolith mineral type lists the urine parameters (specific gravity and pH) to strive to achieve.** If you wish to prepare your own food, contact a veterinary nutritionist to help you formulate an effective and balanced diet. Remember, not all stones are managed primarily with diet. Please read the entire recommendation and flowsheet with suggested follow-up intervals.

Our Recommendations page has a recent Consensus Statement from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) on how to manage most urolith types.

### ***How do I contact and consult with a veterinary nutritionist?***

Veterinary nutritionists can assist in the formulation of a diet, make recommendations on commercial diets, discuss management of patients with multiple medical concerns, or consult on the appropriateness of a selected diet.

The American College of Veterinary Nutrition Diplomate Directory at: [www.acvn.org/directory/](http://www.acvn.org/directory/)

Some Colleges of Veterinary Medicine offer consultations with nutritionists on staff. Contact your nearest College of Veterinary Medicine for services provided. At the University of Minnesota, Veterinary Medical Center contact the nutritionists at Phone 612-624-5024.

Hill's Pet Nutrition veterinary consultation service can be reached:

**Veterinary Clinics/Staff contact:** 1-800-548-VETS (8387), or by email at [vet\\_consult@HillsPet.com](mailto:vet_consult@HillsPet.com)

**Pet Owners:** Consumer Affairs Department 1-800-445-5777 or [hills\\_corporate\\_consumer\\_affairs@hillspet.com](mailto:hills_corporate_consumer_affairs@hillspet.com).

Many diet manufacturers offer consultation on dietary recommendations —contact your preferred manufacturer.

Veterinary nutritionists are also available on-line at websites such as: [www.petdiets.com](http://www.petdiets.com) and [www.balanceit.com](http://www.balanceit.com)

### ***Online Resources for owners***

Frequently asked nutrition questions: <http://www.acvn.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association WSAVA – Nutrition Toolkit: <http://www.wsava.org/nutrition-toolkit>