

Discharge Instructions for CATS with Esophageal Feeding Tubes

For the first five days, feed about 20 ml of food 5 times a day.

To feed, use a 3 cc syringe and infuse 3 cc of lukewarm tap water. See how he tolerates it. If he tolerates it well, go ahead and feed the ‘milkshake.’ Although time consuming, use a 3 cc syringe to infuse the gruel into the tube. The tube goes into his esophagus, so he needs time to swallow. Between the time it takes for you to refill the syringe and replace it on the tube, he will swallow.

When you are done with the food, “chase” it with about 5 syringe-fuls of lukewarm water to flush out any food that remains.

The final step is to infuse about 3-5 cc of carbonated beverage into the tube and cap off the tube until you are ready later. The carbonated beverage helps to break down any of the meaty mixture so it doesn’t block the feeding tube.

Over the following five days, slowly ramp up the amount of food to about 30 ml per feeding until you get to about 160 to 200 ml per day—which is what an 8 to 10 pound cat would need.

To the mixture, you need to pick up the following at GNC or Whole foods:

- Taurine, 500 mg
- Arginine, 500 mg

Crumble up one tablet and mix with the blenderized food daily, because the food is low in these essential nutrients

Once a week, add 1 ml of B-complex (the syringe of B-vitamins) to his food.

Give medications via the feeding tube

Once a week we will clean and change the neck bandage.