

*“Pearls”
of
Veterinary Medicine*



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AT A GLANCE

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Behavior – Nursing

Frenchie Muzzles for fractious flat-faced fiends

“Frenchie” muzzles fit the brachycephalic breeds. There are several sites that sell these muzzles: [The Frenchie Complex](#), Amazon ([#19 in Dog Muzzles](#)), and [Frenchie.shop](#), among others.

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Feline Medicine – Behavior

Food Puzzles for Cats

The website, [foodpuzzlesforcats.com](#) is “a one stop resource for information about feeding your cat using foraging toys!” created by Drs. Tony Buffington and Leticia Dantas based on their [2016 food puzzle paper](#). Food puzzles act to mimic natural hunting behavior, provide mental stimulation, and increase activity. In addition to commercial products, several homemade puzzles are presented.

CapRep (2024):43(3):1

Feline Medicine – Internal Medicine

Hypercalcemia responds to dietary interventions

A recent study demonstrated that diets with reduced calcium levels (<200 mg/100 kcal) and reduced Ca:P (<1.4:1) helped control calcium levels in cats with chronic kidney disease and idiopathic hypercalcemia. The veterinary prescription diets with these levels are listed

below. Some OTC diets were used in the trial but not listed here and the composition of some of the diets have changed since the study.

Note: Italicized diets do not meet all requirements but are close and may suit a finicky cat.

Diet	mg Ca per 100 kcal	Ca:P
Target	<200	<1.4:1
Hill’s Rx Diet k/d Chicken & Vegetable Stew	158	1.35
<i>Hill’s Rx Diet k/d with Ocean Fish dry</i>	183	1.55
Blue Buffalo K+M dry	160	1.08
Blue Buffalo K+M wet	160	1.4
Royal Canin Renal Support Early Consult Loaf in sauce	160	1.33
RC Renal Support Early Consult Dry	180	1.38
RC Renal Support + Hydrolyzed Protein Dry	150	1.36
<i>Just Food for Dogs, Fish & Chicken cat food</i>	214	1.31

*Ehrlich, MR, et al. J Feline Med & Surg (2024);26(2)
CapRep (2024):43(3):1*

Genetics

Dog breed phenotypes change over time

This interesting [article](#) features photos comparing how 10 popular dog breeds look today versus their appearances over 90 years ago (sadly, to the detriment of the breeds).

*Sam Hindman, Mentalfloss.com 11/29/2024
CapRep (2024):43(3):1*