

Force Feeding Cats

It is very important that cats eat regularly! If a cat doesn't eat for 24-72 hours, we need to start force feeding. To do this, you'll need to get human baby food from the grocery store or blend cat food into gruel. You'll want to get a meat based kind (like chicken or turkey), and make sure it doesn't have garlic in the ingredient list. Check the calories when you get it - you want to try to find 100 calories per 2.5oz container or something equivalent. It doesn't have to be exactly that, but the more calories the better.

While feeding, keep a big, absorbent towel handy, they often spit it out and drool a lot while you do this. Wrapping the towel around them like a bib sometimes helps with the mess. We recommend feeding them small amounts more often, rather than large amounts of food only a couple of times a day. Kitties get sick of it/angry very quickly and will fight it sometimes, so if you can give smaller amounts more frequently they usually tolerate it better.

Continue to offer stinky wet cat food, tuna fish, etc. every day while you are force feeding. At least once a day try warming the wet food up, putting it on their lips/in their mouth, putting it next to their face, etc to try and coax them to start eating again. It usually takes anywhere from 2-14 days for a cat that stops eating to start wanting to eat again, so just keep offering food until they get interested in it again!

Exception: *End-stage cats are not to be force fed (end stage anemia, FIP, renal disease, etc)*

Supplies needed

- Human baby food or blended gruel
- Large syringe (10cc syringes for kittens or small cats, 60cc syringes for big cats)
- Spare towels
- Stinky wet cat food, tuna fish, cat treats, etc. (Recovery or AD rx food, but not necessary)

Force Feeding Instructions

Draw the baby food up in a syringe and put it in the corner of the cat's mouth and squirt a little in. Let him swallow. Repeat.

They need to eat 20cc per 1 pound of bodyweight each day. This is based on the 100 calorie per 2.5oz baby food - if your food is much lower in calories increase the volume of food accordingly.

Please use the chart below to figure out how much to feed per the number of times a day:

Weight	Total cc/day	2X/day	3X/day	4X/day	5X/day
2lbs	40cc	20cc	13cc	10cc	8cc
3lbs	60cc	30cc	20cc	15cc	12cc
4lbs	80cc	40cc	27cc	20cc	16cc
5lbs	100cc	50cc	34cc	25cc	20cc
6lbs	120cc	60cc	41cc	30cc	24cc
7lbs	140cc	70cc	48cc	35cc	28cc
8lbs	160cc	80cc	55cc	40cc	32cc
9lbs	180cc	90cc	62cc	45cc	36cc
10lbs	200cc	100cc	69cc	50cc	40cc