

OPOSSUMS

(6 to 9 pounds)

Revised February, 2021- Discard all previous

SAMPLE ADULT DIET

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Food Sources	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Protein (all cooked) plus vegetables and fruit	Scrambled Egg (max 1)	Sardine or Salmon 1 level measuring Tbsp	1/2 chicken wing or neck w/bones (no skin or fat) plus 1-2 serving tablespoons Yogurt	Lowfat mozzarella cheese (est. 1/2 to 1 ounce)	Similar to Monday	Similar to Tuesday	1 Tbsp chicken Liver plus 1 serving tablespoon yogurt
Vegetable	Amount for size of opossum (estimated 1/4 to 1/2 cup): Variety, all forms - include some yellow, red and green vegetables such as carrots, broccoli and spinach, lettuces, cauliflower, cabbage, bell peppers, squashes, etc.						
Fruit	Amount for size of opossum (estimated 1/4 cup): Variety; in season; all forms (including dried)						
WEEKLY				EVERY 1-2 WEEKS			
Live Food – Estimated 1-2 measuring Tablespoons Brewer's Yeast - 2 to 4 tablets (7.5 gr. size) Pasta, Oatmeal, etc. - Maximum - 1/2 cup More! Including grains, rice, grasses, etc.				Vitamin E - From gel cap (5 units per pound weight into mouth or mix with yogurt.) Monkey Chow - 1 to 2 biscuits Oat-bran Cookie - 1 small; Avocado - Maximum - 1/4; Nuts - Maximum 2-3 measuring Tablespoons Other "goodies" - Small amounts – More!			
<h2>Think Variety!!</h2>							
Regarding above:							
1. Daily, add appropriate amount of CAT CHOW – Purina® preferred [*See Note] (By 9-12 months, max 10-20%). See Tables 5, 6 and 7. [In other words, during transition, juveniles are getting equal parts cat chow and vegetables. Starting at 9 months of age, the ratio drops to 80% vegetables/20% cat chow. At one year of age, ratio drops even further to 90% veggies/10% chow. Too much chow will lead to obesity in adults]							
<p>*NOTE: [Update February 2005 - We no longer recommend Purina®. Use, instead, quality cat chow with approximately Protein 32%, Fat 12%, Calcium 1.1%, Phos 0.8%, Vitamin A 10,000 IU/kg. Some nutritionists view soy as a harmful recent addition to chow products, and you may want to avoid it. Chows vary widely and change frequently without warning. Check your labels!</p>							
2. In place of dry cat chow, may use particulate Peter's Food (see below) if opossum is reluctant to eat vegetables.							
3. Feed a small amount of what you are eating (if you eat healthily!), daily.							
4. After 9-12 months of age, give only "non-fat" forms of all foods.							
5. Avoid "pure" proteins -- watch amount! Add yogurt (if necessary) to improve calcium content. NO "Road Kill"!							
6. AVOID vitamin supplements, except as listed. Caution with high Vitamin A foods - (leafy green, orange, yellow veggies; mackerel; salmon; liver)							
7. After 5 months of age, may use mackerel and other proteins occasionally. Caution with Amounts!							
8. Verify the quantities (measure) and variety of various items <u>you've</u> been giving. AVOID OBESITY! (Vol.12,#1-2,1998)							
Peter's Food (1 Part Cat Chow : 1 Part Vegetables : 1/4 Part Yogurt)							
NOTE: Choose quality cat chow with approximately Protein 31.5%, Fat 11%, Calcium 1.1%, Phos 0.9%, Vitamin A 10,000 IU/kg CHECK YOUR LABELS AND CHECK THEM FREQUENTLY!							
NOTE: The vegetables can be cooked and placed in blender with yogurt and then added to dry chow. If the animal cannot chew, soak the chow and place everything in blender, add water to bring to convenient consistency for syringe feeding. Must feed more often if it is necessary to water down the food.							
Adult Cat Chow - see NOTE below		Blended Vegetables			Yogurt		
1/2 C		1/2 C			2 Tbsps.		
1 Baby Food Jar		1 Baby Food Jar			1/4 Baby Food Jar		
1 C		1 C			1/4 C		
2 C		2 C			1/2 C		
4 C		4 C			1 C		