

Instructions for tube feeding

Materials Needed:

60 cc syringes
liquid diet
bowl of water
paper towels

Feeding Instructions:

1. pre-fill syringes with the prescribed amount of liquid diet.
2. pre-fill another syringe with 20 cc of water.
 - a. If there is any coughing, gagging or discomfort when water is introduced, STOP feeding and call us for advice.
3. unwrap the top layer of the bandage to expose the tube.
4. Remove the tube cap and flush the tube with 10cc of water before feeding.
5. administer food with slow and steady pressure over several minutes.
 - a. If there is any resistance that can not be relieved with firm pressure, flush with water and then resume feeding.
 - b. If the tube can not be flushed with water, put 5-10 cc warm water or coca-cola in the tube and let sit for 10-15 minutes, then try to flush with water again.
 - c. If there is an obstruction in the tube that can not be relieved using the steps above, bring your pet in within 24 hours so that we can clear the tube.
 - d. If there is any coughing, gagging or discomfort while feeding, STOP FEEDING and call us immediately.
6. Flush the tube with 5-10cc water, until resistance of food is relieved.
7. Flush tube with 5 cc of air.
8. Replace tube cap and bandage, securing with a piece of white tape if necessary.

Care of your cat's esophagostomy tube.

Please bring your cat in once weekly at first, and perhaps less often later as you learn to care for the tube. The bandage needs to be changed at least once a week, and the tube site checked for any problems. It is also a good idea to weigh your pet once weekly, so that we can monitor progress and adjust the feeding instructions as needed. The tube can safely stay in place for weeks to months, or sometimes even longer.

If the tube becomes dislodged, DO NOT PANIC. The tube can be removed at any time without ill effect. We can place another if necessary. If your pet vomits up the tube, and the end comes out his mouth, DO NOT PANIC. Just trim the tube as short as possible with scissors, and bring him or her in to have it removed, and have another placed if necessary. If necessary, you could remove the bandage and the sutures, and pull the remaining piece of tube out without ill effect. If you would rather we do it, we would be happy to.