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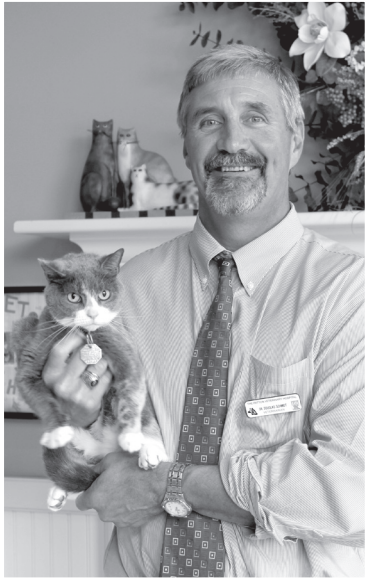
ASK OUR VET, DR. SCHMIDT



My neighbor keeps feeding my dog "Gracie" and she keeps getting fatter. What can I tell them to get them to stop feeding her?

Wow, what a great question!
I deal with that same question almost every day.

First of all, let them know your veterinarian told you Gracie is getting fat. Let them know that obesity is a disease, and it is slowly taking away those extra years that you want to spend with her. That extra weight that she is carrying is causing too much stress on her joints, and that is causing her to be in unnecessary pain. It is speeding up the development of arthritis in her joints and this is reducing her activity level too. That extra weight is also causing her blood pressure to increase, thus making her heart work harder. A lot of that huffing and puffing she's doing is because of those extra pounds.

Because a lot of her fat is hidden inside her body, you can't see how bad it really is. Let them know that the extra fat in there is producing bad chemicals in her entire body. Over 20 are produced, including increased levels of inflammatory agents and even steroids. And we all know what long term steroids can do to the body.

So let them know they are causing harm to "Gracie" by feeding her those extra treats. If you need some extra help with her weight loss, ask your veterinarian about special diets and exercise programs. Also there is now a doggie weight loss medication called Slentrol that helps suppress her appetite. This may help cut down on her trips next door to get those treats.

Just keep reminding them that OBESITY is a disease. It is shortening "Gracie's" life span and you want her around as long as possible. Good luck!

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