



Thank you for contacting the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre's clinical nutrition service. There are several options for pets that need nutritional plans or other services, including (but not limited to) homemade diets.

Due to limited availability, the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre's (VMC) clinical nutrition service is unable to provide formal nutrition consults for external patients until further notice.

If the pet is already a VMC patient or is being referred to another service at the veterinary teaching hospital, then the treating clinician at the VMC can request an internal consultation or appointment with the VMC's clinical nutrition service.

There are a wide variety of options available for remote consultations from many other services. You may work with your veterinarian to determine which option is best for you.

Veterinarians are still welcome to contact Dr. Tammy Owens, the VMC's board-certified veterinary nutritionist, for informal advice and feedback on nutritional management options for their cases.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Services may vary in cost, options, and expected wait times.
- Over-the-counter supplements (including human vitamin/mineral supplements) with the same name may have important differences between Canadian and U.S. formulations. It is important for the consulting veterinarian and veterinary nutritionist to be aware of these possible issues and be able to make Canadian-specific recommendations. **Note:** *Balance IT supplements are manufactured in California and shipped worldwide.*
- There are some differences in commercial dog and cat diets options available in Canada.

SERVICES THAT MAY OFFER REMOTE CONSULTATIONS

- Consult the American College of Veterinary Nutrition Diplomate [directory](#) for more information. *Please note, not all listed diplomates offer remote consultations.*
- Balance.IT maintains an independent list of options for consultation with veterinary nutritionists. [Click here](#) to view. The list includes a mix of services — only some of which can offer remote consultations.

PRIVATE PRACTICE OPTIONS

PetDiets.com: Pet owners pay directly for the consult.

The treating veterinarian will also be required to provide a summary of the pet's medical records, current weight, body condition score, muscle condition score and other details.

PetDiets.com employs several veterinary nutritionists.

VCA Clinical Nutrition Service (Canada): Dr. Sarah Wilson, DVM, DACVIM (Nutrition) has partnered with **VCA Tri Lake in B.C.** to offer virtual appointments and vet-to-vet consults. For more information, email trilake@vca.com.

VCA Clinical Nutrition Service (U.S.): The service in the U.S. provides vet-to-vet consults, but availability may be limited. [Please visit the website](#) to find more information.

BalanceIT.com is a web-based service to create homemade diet formulations. A veterinary professional (or possibly a pet owner with appropriate permissions from their veterinarian) can use the "AUTOBALANCER EZ for Vet Patients" to obtain recipes for certain, more straight-forward medical conditions. A more customized diet plan is not available.

The pet owner can purchase the **Balance IT vitamin/mineral supplement through the website** or select the option with a combination of human supplements purchased elsewhere in order for the diet to be complete and balanced. The recipes are complimentary. Some human supplements may still need to be ordered from the U.S. due to differences in formulations. **Note:** check U.S. and Canadian formulas for similarity before using. For example, please ensure vitamin D or retinol do not exceed toxic doses or that nutrients are missing.

Blue Pearl Veterinary Nutrition: BluePearl is a national network of emergency and specialty pet hospitals. Contact the following veterinary nutritionists for more information:

- Dr. Rachel Kurzbard
nutrition.irvine@bluepearlvet.com
- Dr. Lindsey Bullen
nutrition.vshcarolinas@bluepearlvet.com



REMOTE NUTRITION SERVICES AT U.S. ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

- **University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.**
Note: UGA staff member Dr. Jackie Parr is a member of the Canadian Academy of Veterinary Nutrition and has extensive experience working in Canada.
- **Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine**
Accepting consults for dogs, horses, and pet pigs.
- **Tufts University: Cummings Veterinary Medical Center**
Note: Dr. Lisa Freeman only accepts remote consults for pets with heart disease as primary issue.
- **North Carolina State Veterinary Hospital**
- **University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center**
- **University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine**
- **University of California Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital**
- **Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital**
- **Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine**
- **University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine**
- **The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine**