2022 Veterinary Clinic Study Instructions

Thank you for participating in the National Pet Obesity Awareness Day Study. This survey allows the veterinary profession to better understand the current state of pet obesity in the U.S.

We ask that you obtain basic body condition information on cats and dogs over one year of age that present to your clinic between October 12 and November 30, 2022. Please include multiple days of data if your schedule and caseload permit.

Clinics will be able to submit data electronically this year from a mobile device, Ipad, or computer. Clinics may also use the “paper” data collection forms or a combination of the two. Whatever works best for your clinic!

Participants will be entered into a raffle for prizes. Veterinary team members will receive one entry for every 10 pets they submit into a drawing for a Yeti Roadie 24 ($250 value) (e.g. 30 pets equals 3 entries). Participating veterinary clinics or organizations will be entered into a raffle for an Apple Ipad ($329 value) and Basepaws Veterinary by Zoetis 3-pack genetic test kit ($295 value).

It is important that you are consistent with selecting all types of breeds and sizes of pets to include in the study. Be careful not to unintentionally select only pets that are overweight or have obesity.

Please include all pets that present to your clinic for annual examinations, vaccinations, minor medical complaints, dentistry, boarding and so forth. Do not include pets admitted for emergency, terminal conditions, or other examinations you feel inappropriate.

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1. Click here Clinic Registration to create your clinic account or scan the QR code below. Your clinic will be able to send data 1) electronically by clicking on a link, 2) Use the “paper” data collection forms, or you may 3) Use a combination of both.

2. Your Clinic ID will be the last 5 digits of your clinic telephone.
3. **Review Body Condition Scoring (BCS) for cats and dogs and data collection instructions with team members that will be collecting data.** Only individuals who have been trained in Body Condition Scoring for dogs and cats should participate in data collection.

Below is the information we are asking you to record. We recommend each team member their own sheets for data collection. Be as thorough as possible when recording pet information.

- **Pet's Name** First name only.
- **Species** Enter D for dog or C for cat.
- **Breed** Record the breed or predominate breed of the animal. For mixed breed cats enter DSH, DMH, or DLH. For **mixed breed dogs** enter “Mixed” and “Size” of the dog at their ideal weight (i.e. Mixed Medium).
  - Mixed Small dog = under 20 lbs. (ideal weight of the dog 20 lbs or under)
  - Mixed Medium dog = 20-50 lbs. (ideal weight is between 21-50 lbs.)
  - Mixed Large dog = 50-80 lbs. (ideal weight is between 51-80 lbs.)
  - Mixed Giant dog = over 80 lbs. (ideal weight is over 81 lbs.)
- **Age** Please do not include pets under 1 year of age. For age, round to nearest tenth. Of course, you may not know the exact age of a pet; provide the closest approximation possible.
- **Sex** Female (F), Female Spayed (FS), Male (M), or Male Neutered (MN)
- **Total Number of Dogs and Cats in the household**
- **Owner Assessment of Their Pet's Weight** Ask the pet owner, “How would you classify your pet's weight? Thin, Normal, Overweight or Obese”. It is important that you use a neutral tone of voice and do not give the pet owner your opinion or assessment of the pet's size or Body Condition Score (BCS) prior to asking this question. You may tell the pet owner there is no “right” or “wrong” answer to this question. We are interested in their perception of their pet's current body condition. Once the data is recorded, you may discuss or engage the pet owner about weight and nutritional management if you choose.
- **Body Condition Score (1 to 9 whole numbers only)** Please refer to the BCS charts included with information. The information is also available at www.petobesityprevention.org.
- **Current Pet Weight in pounds** Round to nearest tenth (0.1) of a pound.
• **Previous or Current Medical Conditions** List any chronic conditions such as arthritis or osteoarthritis, hip dysplasia, heart disease, diabetes, kidney, liver or bladder diseases, hypertension, chronic skin or ear infections, etc.

• **Images** For electronic submissions we ask that you take two images of the pet for research purposes. More details will be provided if you are using electronic submission.

4. **Begin data collection. Click here for the link.**

5. **Clinics that submit at least 100 pets electronically with images will receive individualized comparative data with national averages and feedback on accuracy of their team’s BCS scoring by January 30, 2023.** Research shows that BCS scoring among veterinary professionals is often underestimated.

6. **Return completed “paper” forms by December 7, 2022:**
   - By email: apopdata@petobesityprevention.org.
   - By mail: APOP, 1108 New Point Blvd, Ste 130 PMB 1005, Leland, NC 28451
   - Please return forms no later than December 7, 2022.

7. **Share the Weight Management, Nutrition, and Pet Food Survey with pet owners.** There is also a brief section for veterinary professionals that will help us understand issues surrounding pet obesity.

If you have questions or need assistance with the survey:
Please let us know if you need any assistance. You may contact apopdata@petobesityprevention.org or call 910-359-2088.