



# Stomach Tube Home Feeding and Care

## Medications

1. Pulverize instructed dose of medication completely and dilute in 3mL of water.
2. Push through tube as often as directed.

## Preparing Food

1. Mix 1 can of prescribed canned food with 60mL water.
2. Blenderize until homogeneous consistency.
3. Refrigerate.
4. When time to feed, warm food to room or body temperature and stir to ensure even warming.
5. Feed as directed.

## Feeding

1. Remove cap from stomach tube and set aside.
2. Measure residual stomach volume.
  - Using an empty syringe, draw back to measure volume of existing stomach contents.
  - Residual volumes of >5-10mLs may indicate problems with emptying of the stomach, and adding more food may cause vomiting. If residual volumes preclude feeding for greater than 24 hours, call for instructions.
  - Always return residual contents back to the stomach as it contains vital electrolytes and nutrients.
3. Warm the food to about body temperature. Add sufficient water to blenderized food to facilitate passage down the tube.
4. Feed slowly, starting with 2-5mLs/minute.
  - Rapid feeding is likely to cause vomiting. Think about the rate at which a cat normally eats their food and try to reproduce this.
  - Feeding will initially be a slow process, but she will be able to handle more over time. Go slowly until her stomach accommodates to the new situation.
5. After feeding, flush tube with 2mL warm water.
6. Replace cap on end of tube.
7. If at any time the tube appears clogged, a few mLs Coca Cola instilled into tube is often helpful to dislodge it. Wait 5-10 minutes after the Coke and check to see if the clog has dissolved by trying to administer a small quantity of warm water.

## Schedule

- Day 1: 10mL through tube TID (three times a day or every 8 hours)  
Day 2: 15mL TID  
Day 3: 20mL TID  
Day 4: 25mL TID  
Day 5: 30mL TID  
Day 6: 35mL TID

Over time, volumes go up to 60mL and may be reduced to BID (twice a daily or every 12 hours). Go slowly and we will see that she can handle over time. Always tempt her to eat and drink.

## Care

- Clean feeding syringes in hot soapy water.
- Small amount olive oil can be used to lubricate the inside of the syringe barrel to keep it easy to using and longer lasting.
- Watch the tube site for redness, swelling, or excessive discharge. Call us if you notice any of these signs.