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### SERVAL CAT NUTRITION

Many of you have questions about what kind of food a serval should eat to maintain an excellent score in health. Let us discuss.

Healthy servals are happy servals and a good, well-balanced diet with ensuring this indeed, but how does one know what a balanced diet to feed a serval cat is? There are so many options and what are the nutritional values in each food source? Well, let us talk about the different foods that you can feed your serval cat to ensure the health and well-being that will last a lifetime and save you many vet bills as well.

Health starts with a well-balanced nutrition for your serval cat, the best diet for your serval cat is to know what they would eat in the wild, understand the first food they would encounter in the wild.

A serval cat needs variety in its diet. Just like in the wild. They hunt many different types of small prey. Hence the same applies in captivity, adding a variety such as chicken and turkey necks/back/legs/gizzards, mice, chicks, beef, a variety of birds such as quail/ duck/grouse, smaller prey such as mice/rats/rabbit. Different types of seafood such as cod/salmon/snapper/sardines/basa/shrimp/lobster/crab/shellfish., eggs,cheese, and oils, vegetables/fruits, and grass. Let us look further into this variety of foods and know the nutritional value of each type.When managing your serval's weight, Think as for how athletes manage their weight; a fat serval cat is not good, this will cause joint, ankle and leg problems, some meats completely stripped of their fat, again this is not advisable as serval cats need fat for their high-speed energy. If you choose to remove the fat from the meats, then this can be stripped and frozen, use it as treats or a pick me up booster when you go for walks or while leash training your cat.

When feeding your serval, don't just feed the muscle meat only, bones are to be fed as well for their minerals and calcium. Never feed frozen meats or prey, it should be warm to the touch. If you leave, the meats, on the counter to defrost, Will cause bacteria to grow, microwave sometimes can leave the internal part of the bones hot and this cause burns on your serval cats tongue and stomach, if you do microwave, leave the food out for a few minutes until it comes down to room temperature. The best way to defrost is to leave the frozen meat in a warm bath and keep changing the water to a warm consistency until the frozen meat is thawed.

Muscle meat and organ meat, fed alone can have poor sources of calcium and can cause calcium deficiency.

Sprinkling some calcium -phosphorus powders can be done but they are not always 100%. Wildtrax is an excellent supplement powder that mixed with the raw muscle meat diet, is the complete package when supplementing serval cats. If you choose to feed kibble, then only use Mazuri small kibble brand. No domestic cat food should be given to serval cats, why you may ask/ it is because commercial domestic cat food is not designed for exotic cats such as serval cats.

You can use natural products such as egg shells, oyster shells, cuttlebone and calcium carbonated tablets. Metabolic rate and maintenance: is about average 2 to 4 pounds of food a day or 1000 calories a day.

Serval cat diet should consist of the following

Iron, calcium, phosphorous,taurine,protein,fat,oils.

The most important are the taurine in a serval cat diet, but keep in mind that all these vitamins have to be balanced.

I supplement my servals, once a week as they are Adults, but I use more natural sources as I mentioned above. How much calcium should you give? It depends on the age and weight of your serval, if your serval cat is 20 to 30 pounds then, I recommend one teaspoon a week, and more natural sources as possible on a daily basis. I use liquid calcium as it absorbs into the bones more efficiently than tablets. But there are many options, and you can use the ones that you prefer.

Calcium- It is a chemical element that serval cats need to maintain and build

strong bones, teeth, claws and to build a robust and healthy communication between the brain and various types of the serval's body. Calcium found in oyster shells, egg shells, chicken bones, goat bones, beef bones, liquid calcium, these are some good source.

Phosphorus- It is a mineral found in different parts of the serval cat body. Mainly in the teeth and bones. Phosphorus minerals balanced with calcium for the growth of healthy bones and teeth, it is also involved with helping and maintaining a well-balanced acid base, helps and supports the growth of your serval cat and the storage of energy.

Meats and dairy that contain phosphorus are:

Plain yogurt, cottage cheese, cheddar cheese, salmon, tuna, halibut, crab. Cooked meats also contain phosphorus.

Taurine-It is a sulfur that contains amino acids to metabolize the fats.

Foods that contain taurine should

are essential for to serval cats, and they are as follows:

Shellfish are an excellent source of taurine such as shrimp, clams, scallops. Cold water fish like salmon and sardines, all meats contain taurine especially poultry with dark meat one of the best sources of taurine, rodents consist of a high percentage of taurine as well as eggs. So trust your serval cats appetite and he will be happy.

Iron-Iron plays a vital role in a serval cats body as well.

Without the iron, the serval's body cannot make enough oxygen carry red blood cells.

Foods that contain iron that you can feed your serval cat are as follows,

Red meats, poultry, seafood and pork.

Protein-It is a macronutrient that builds muscle and is essential for the fur coat growth, texture and helps build body tissue.

A high percentage of protein, found in, meats, cheese, yogurt, fish, and eggs.

Oils- such as fish oils and coconut oil are a good source as well.

All the raw meats and whole prey should always be of high quality. Moldy or spoiled raw meats, or raw meat stored for longer periods of times frozen, more than 6 to 12 months, you should never feed to your serval cat.

Over filling the food bowls should be discouraged as the food left at the bottom can be spoiled, especially when dealing with raw meats. Before adding more food each meal, always clean the food and water bowls each time every feed, with hot water and dishwashing soap, if you have a dishwasher, that's even better as the food dishes need to go through a high-temperature rinse to kill all the bacteria if present.

Now we can all have a healthy and happy serval cat.

Thank you

Nisha



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