MARK MORRIS INSTITUTE
A leader in veterinary nutrition education

Energy Needs and Food Dosage

Learning guide

Note: This document is meant to be a guide and thus is not all-encompassing. Remember to review the study tips for advice on using the modules.

Lesson Objectives

- Estimate energy needs for any dog or cat
- Calculate a feeding dose for a specific pet using a given diet
- Determine when to use the true MER vs the calculated MER when calculating food dosage

Energy Requirement

Learning Outcomes

- Define resting energy requirement (RER)
- Identify the most common equation for calculating RER for a dog or a cat
- Define maintenance energy requirement (MER)
- Select the most appropriate MER factor for a given pet
- Estimate a pet's energy needs by calculating the MER
- Analyze a nutritional history to determine the pet's current intake and "true MER" for an ideal weight if possible

Knowledge Checklist

☐ Can you review a pet's nutritional history and identify or calculate the appropriate RER and MER?

Food Dosage

Learning Outcomes

* Define food dosage
* Outline the steps involved with calculating food dosage including RER, MER, and food dosage equations
* Calculate a food dosage for a specific pet and diet

Knowledge Checklist

☐ Given a pet's body weight and nutritional history, can you recommend an appropriate food dosage using a specific diet?