



What to Expect: Nutrition Jump Start

INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Nutrition Jump Start is a program offered through UTCVM's Nutrition Service. This program is designed to provide a short-term diet option that appropriately supports the pet during the extended waiting period for their formal consultation with the veterinary nutritionist.

APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

The jump start appointment is performed by and a licensed veterinary technician with a masters in animal science and a Veterinary Technician Specialty in Nutrition (VTS-Nutrition). The appointment can be done in-person or remotely via video conference and is expected to last approximately one hour. During the appointment, the veterinary technician will review and discuss the referral information submitted by your veterinarian, your completed Client Diet, Activity and Household History Form and how your pet is currently doing. The veterinary technician will recommend the most appropriate temporary diet option(s) for your pet until you are able to formally meet with the nutritionist.

This appointment does NOT replace a formal appointment with the veterinary nutritionist. You will still need to finalize the balanced and long-term feeding plan with the nutritionist. You will receive an abbreviated feeding plan that has been reviewed and approved by a nutritionist via email within 5 business days of the Jump Start appointment.

You will be able to communicate with the veterinary technician regarding your pet's response to the temporary feeding plan until the time of your appointment with the veterinary nutritionist. Based on the degree of communication necessary to adequately meet the needs of the pet, a veterinary technician recheck may be scheduled to work through any additional adjustments prior to your appointment with the nutritionist.

HOW TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

After an initial consultation with the veterinary nutritionist has been scheduled, you or your referring veterinarian may additionally request to schedule a Jump Start appointment. If approved by the nutrition service, you will be contacted to schedule the appointment. If the nutrition service determines your pet does not qualify for a Jump Start appointment, you will be notified and will still be able to meet with the veterinary nutritionist during the previously scheduled nutrition consultation slot.

Please see the What to Expect: Nutrition form for information regarding how to book a consultation with the veterinary nutritionist. *NOTE: You must have a scheduled appointment with the nutritionist BEFORE you can schedule a Jump Start appointment.

JUMP START COST ESTIMATE

The total charge for the Jump Start appointment is \$145 and provides the following:

- A one-hour appointment with the nutrition veterinary technician.
- One temporary, unbalanced homemade diet OR a commercial diet recommendation for your pet, received within 5 business days.

Following the Jump Start appointment, you will still need to complete the formal consultation with the veterinary nutritionist to finalize the balanced and long-term feeding plan for your pet. All appointments with the veterinary nutritionist start with a consultation fee of \$179. Following this consultation, if a balanced homemade diet plan is appropriate for your pet, a balanced homemade diet plan fee of \$334 will also apply. **The total cost to meet with the veterinary technician through the Jump Start program, to meet with the veterinary nutritionist, and have a balanced and long-term feeding plan developed for your pet is \$658.**

REMOTE APPOINTMENTS VIA ZOOM

If you have booked a video conference appointment, you will receive an email with a hyperlink the evening before your appointment. You may use any device that has speaker and camera capabilities. If you are using a smartphone or tablet, you will need to download the Zoom app prior to the appointment. If there is trouble connecting virtually around the appointment time, you will receive a phone call to the phone number(s) listed on the Diet, Activity and Household History Form.

FINANCIAL POLICY

Whether consulting with the nutrition department in person or remotely (phone or video conference), the fee for the consultation, and fees related to any written diet plan to be formulated after the consultation, are due when services are rendered. For remote consultations, UTCVM Client Services will follow up with you directly or via email to collect payment. CareCredit® payments must be arranged prior to your appointment. We **CANNOT** begin working on any written diet plan formulations until payment has been received. We do **NOT** charge veterinary clinics.