



# Feeding Guide for Hospitalized Dogs and Cats

## When to intervene in a hospitalized patient

### Days of anorexia/hyporexia (include days of anorexia/hyporexia at home)



**5 days:** Nutritional support is required!  
Place feeding tube or initiate parenteral nutrition.



**3-4 days:** Nutritional support likely needed if recovery is not imminent.  
Consider feeding tube placement if patient will be anesthetized.



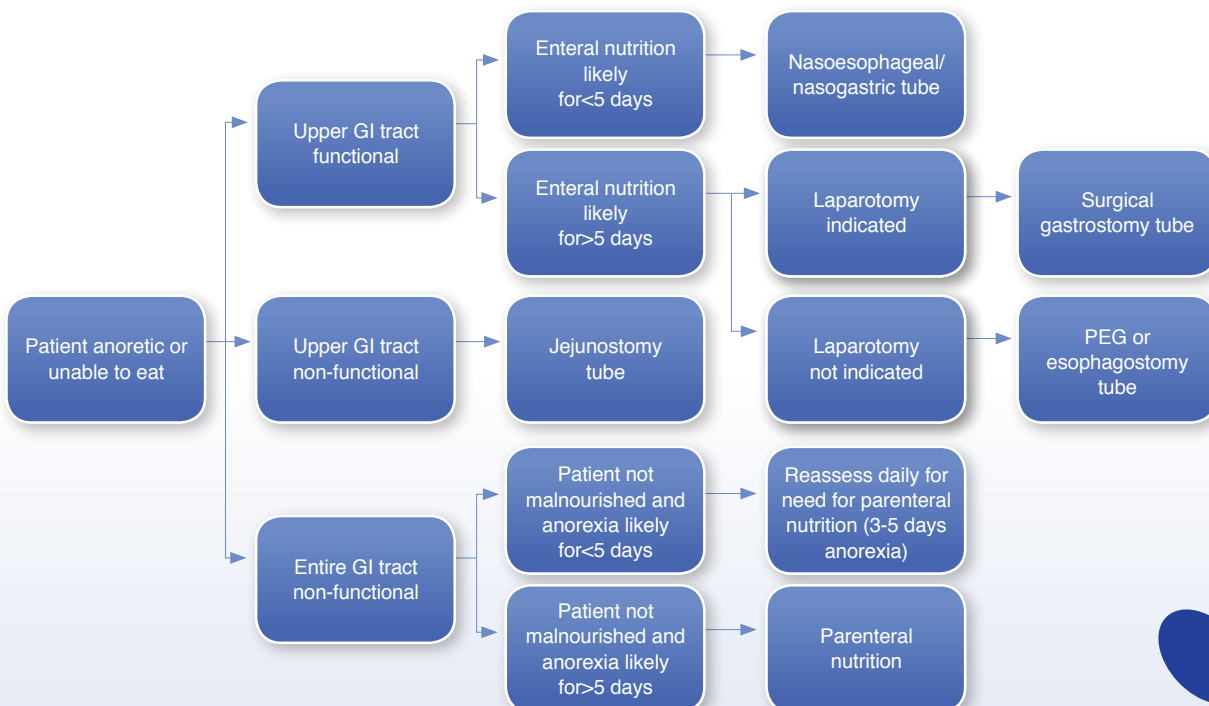
**1-2 days:** Write feeding orders, monitor food intake and clinical condition daily.

Note: If the patient is already malnourished, nutritional support should be instituted as soon as hemodynamically stable.

## Create a plan for hospitalized animals:

Create a feeding plan (ie, diet, route, amount, and frequency). Goal is to meet resting energy requirements (RER), although it may take 2-3 days to reach RER.

1. If able to eat, try voluntary oral feeding or coax feeding.  
Write specific feeding orders: "Feed 1/4 can Diet X orally q 6 hrs."  
(diet, route, amount, frequency)
2. Monitor intake. If adequate intake is not achieved orally, assisted feeding techniques are needed:



Weight* (kg)	RER (kcal/day)	Weight *(kg)	RER (kcal/day)
1.0	70	15.0	534
1.5	95	16.0	560
2.0	118	17.0	586
2.5	139	18.0	612
3.0	160	19.0	637
3.5	179	20.0	662
4.0	198	22.5	723
4.5	216	25.0	783
5.0	234	27.5	841
5.5	251	30.0	897
6.0	268	32.5	953
6.5	285	35.0	1007
7.0	301	37.5	1061
7.5	317	40.0	1113
8.0	333	42.5	1165
8.5	348	45.0	1216
9.0	364	47.5	1267
9.5	379	50.0	1316
10.0	394	52.5	1365
11.0	423	55.0	1414
12.0	451	57.5	1462
13.0	479	60.0	1509
14.0	507		

*\*Based on actual body weight unless BCS>7 (then use optimal body weight)*

