

Below is a list of 29 nutrition-based competencies that the American College of Veterinary Nutrition (ACVN) published more than 10 years ago.

*History, physical examination, and laboratory evaluation:*

- Determine whether any recent changes have developed in an animal's diet, food intake, activity or environment
- Recognize physical signs of malnutrition
- Make an accurate estimate of an animal's weight
- Obtain an accurate diet history
- Determine the physiologic status of an animal
- Assign a body condition score
- Determine whether an animal has a history of known or suspected food aversions or allergies
- Conduct a systems review to identify nutrition-related organ system problems
- Evaluate diet-related values in CBC and serum biochemical profiles
- Request appropriate laboratory evaluation for help in diagnosing nutrition-related problems
- Determine whether an animal has a breed-related susceptibility to a nutritional problem

*Given the results of the history, physical examination, and laboratory evaluation:*

- Compare an animal's physiologic condition with the diet history
- Determine adequacy of the diet for the physiologic status of an animal
- Determine adequacy of feeding management for the physiologic status of an animal
- Estimate the risk of a nutrition-related problem as high, moderate, or low

*For sick patients:*

- Recognize when nutrition-related reference materials and experts should be consulted
- Prescribe a diet that incorporates nutrient modifications necessary to treat the diagnosed problem
- Persuade the client to ensure that an animal is fed as recommended
- Monitor progress of treatment, adjusting as necessary
- Establish the most appropriate route of nutrition support
- Formulate an adequate diet, when necessary
- Differentiate between diet-induced and nutrient-sensitive diseases

*For healthy animals:*

- Demonstrate appropriate body condition for the client
- Prescribe a feeding protocol appropriate to maintain an animal's appropriate body condition, within the client's lifestyle
- Assist the client in choosing the most economical diet for the conditions
- Describe methods for changing the diet of "picky" eaters

*Improvement of nutrition knowledge and practice:*

- Evaluate nutrition-related information presented in veterinary journals
- Evaluate validity of nutrition-related statements made by "experts"
- Evaluate validity of nutrition-related marketing claims