Encouraging your cat to eat at home

Is your cat eating less than normal? Any visit to the clinic can be a stressful experience and your cat may have had treatment associated with a loss of appetite. Here are a few ideas to get your cat’s appetite back!

**What do I feed?**

- Feed what your cat has previously enjoyed — any special diet can be introduced once their appetite has returned.
- Your cat will feel full quicker, so feed small quantities at regular intervals.

**What else?**

- Monitor your cat’s food intake
- Monitor your cat’s weight
- Report progress to your vet

**Where do I feed?**

- Take food to your cat if they are recovering from surgery and are reluctant to move.
- Feed separately to other cats and dogs in the home.
- Feed in other locations if your cat is reluctant to eat in their normal spot.
- Feed away from places where your cat may feel threatened, such as near doors, windows, cat flap, busy areas etc.

**How do I feed?**

- Some cats prefer human company when eating, others don’t, so try a little encouragement but don’t persevere if your cat doesn’t respond.
- Avoid actively interfering with your cat eating, such as placing food in their mouth or watching them closely.
- If you are anxious about your cat eating then consider asking someone else to take over the feeding – your anxiety may make your cat think you are behaving strangely!