Dr. Ernie Ward
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Thank you for participating in the Ninth Annual National Pet Obesity Awareness Day study. This study will allow the veterinary profession to better understand the current state of overweight pets and obesity in the U.S.

To complete the study, we are asking that you obtain basic information on each cat and dog over one year of age that comes to your clinic on October 7, 2015 for routine procedures such as annual examinations, vaccinations, dentistry and so forth. It is important that you are consistent with selecting all types, breeds and sizes of pets to include in the study. One of the primary concerns for a study such as this is that the participants will unintentionally record only the overweight or obese pets and fail to capture data on normal and thin pets. Be sure to record data on all of the pets you see for simple, routine procedures on this single day to give an accurate representation of the U.S. pet population.

If you are unable to complete the study on Wednesday, October 7, you may complete it any day during the month of October, 2015.

We have greatly simplified the study. We are primarily asking for owners' assessments of their pet's weight, the pet's weight and your BCS scoring.

Copies of body condition score (BCS) handouts may be found here on the website.

Study Instructions
1. Complete the study data sheet enclosed. If you need additional copies, you can download them here:
   http://www.petobesityprevention.org/2015-national-pet-obesity-awareness-day/
2. Be as thorough as possible when recording pet information.
   - **Pet's Name**
   - **Dog (D) or Cat (C)**
   - **Breed**: For mixed breeds, record the primary breed or if small (0–20 lbs. ideal weight), medium (20–50 lbs. ideal weight), large (50–80 lbs. ideal weight), or extra-large (over 80 lbs. ideal weight).
   - **Age**: Round to nearest quarter year (0.25—i.e. a dog 1 year 8 months would be recorded as 1.75). Of course, you may not know the exact age of a pet; round to the closest approximation possible.
   - **Sex**: Male (M), Female (F), Male Neutered (MN) or Female Spayed (FS).
   - **Total Number of Pets in Household:** Dogs and cats. If they have exotic pets you'd like to list, add in "Previous Medical Conditions or Comments" column.
   - **Owner Assessment of Weight**: Ask the client to classify their pet's weight as thin, normal, overweight or obese; it is important that you have not given them an indication of size or Body Condition Score (BCS) prior to asking this question. Tell the client there is no "right" or "wrong" answer to this question.
   - **Body Condition Score:** You may refer to the charts found here for details on BCS. Please use only whole numbers (1 to 5, not 3.5, 4.3, etc.).
   - **Weight**: Round to nearest tenth (0.1) of a pound.
   - **Previous Medical Conditions or Comments**: Record conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, periodontal disease, chronic skin infections, etc. We are primarily interested in any long-term, chronic or serious medical conditions or complications related to excess weight.

To return completed forms:
by fax: 910-579-9613
by email: DrErnieWard@gmail.com
by mail: APOP 51 Newport St. Ocean Isle, NC 28469

Please return forms no later than October 31, 2015. If you need additional time or would like to conduct the study on a different day, please contact me at DrErnieWard@gmail.com.

Thank you again for your help. Your efforts are helping turn the tide in the war against obesity-related illness and death.

Dr. Ernie Ward

Association for Pet Obesity Prevention

OCTOBER 7, 2015
NATIONAL PET OBESITY AWARENESS DAY

Clinic Name: **Clinic Address:**   **Clinic Phone:**

Pet's Name	D=Dog C=Cat	Breed	Age (yrs)	Sex (M,F, NM,SF)	Total # of Pets in Household		Owner Assessment of Weight Thin=1 Normal=2 Overweight=3 Obese=4 (Use Whole numbers only)	Body Condition Scoring System Very Thin=1 Underweight=2 Ideal=3 Overweight=4 Obese=5 (Use whole numbers only)	Weight (lbs)	Previous Medical Conditions
					Dogs	Cats				

Fax, mail or email form to:
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