

caring

TEXT BY TRISH HALL PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON WATSON



Eating Habits

CATS TAKE ON THE WORLD WITH THEIR EYES AND THEIR EARS. THEY WATCH, THEY LISTEN, THEY SWAT; THEY VERY NEARLY QUIVER, THEIR REACTIONS TO EVERY MOVEMENT ARE SO FINELY TUNED. Dogs, on the other hand, are all nose. They sniff everything and everybody in sight. A dog asleep on the third floor of a house will come running when the refrigerator door opens. Even from his spot under a desk, many stairs away, he understands that life is about to offer him the possibility of something great to eat.

Although there are exceptions to every rule, most dogs are obsessed with food. They'll eat dirty tissues as readily as they'll eat a marbled steak. Cats are much pickier about what they consume. They probably won't starve if you don't provide their favorite treat, but they won't binge if you do.

These different ways of eating reflect their early days in the wild. Cats were solitary hunters, predators that caught small animals whenever needed. They didn't worry about where the next meal was coming from, because they were little lions, able to go hunting for dinner and capable of providing a lot of variety. Dogs are pack animals, and in the wild they roamed in groups, hunting together to bring down big prey. They would gorge and then, if they had to, fast.

By reading labels and conferring with a veterinarian or

ABOVE: Like their human companions, dogs and cats are being offered an ever-growing array of food choices that speak to their special needs, whether all natural, vegan, low calorie or just extra tasty. Unfortunately, also like their human companions, American cats and dogs are getting less exercise and more food than they need, creating a weight problem.