

Examples of Open-Ended and Close-Ended Inquiry

Animal Factors

Open-ended inquiry

- “Walk me through how (he/she) has been doing since our last visit, including any changes or concerns you have.”
- “Describe for me a typical day for (him/her) including all (his/her) activities.”
- “What other activities or exercise does (he/she) get during a week?”

Closed-ended inquiry

- “Has (he/she) experienced any:
 - vomiting?
 - diarrhea?
 - flatulence?
 - constipation?”

Diet Factors

Open-ended inquiry

- “Tell me everything (he/she) eats throughout a day, starting from first thing in the morning right through to the end of the day.”⁸¹
- “Describe for me any extra foods (he/she) receives in addition to (his/her) kibble.”
- “Tell me more about all supplements or medications (he/she) receives.”
- “What about other snacks, treats, table food, or food rewards?”

Closed-ended inquiry

- “How much are you feeding (him/her)?”
- “How often are you feeding (him/her)?”

Environment Factors

Open-ended inquiry

- “Describe for me all of the people involved in feeding (him/her) including snacks, treats, or table food.”
- “Tell me about the challenges at home to limiting the number of calories (he/she) consumes in a day.”

Closed-ended inquiry

- “Where does (he/she) spend most of their time?”

Human Factors

Open-ended inquiry

- “Tell me your thoughts on (his/her) current diet.”
- “What are your thoughts on altering (his/her) diet at this time?”
- “What things do you look for when choosing a food for (him/her)?”
- “How will changing (his/her) diet and cutting back on the little extras impact (his/her) relationship with the people in your household?”