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Both vitamins A and D are fat-soluble and essential vitamins in the diets of dogs and cats.

Vitamin A is important for normal vision, immune function, fetal development, growth, and cellular differentiation (important formaintaining healthy skin cells, corneal cells, and other cells lining the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and reproductive tracts)<sup>12</sup>.

Vitamin D plays a major role in maintaining normal body calcium levels and facilitating calcium absorption from the gastrointestinal tract. Unlike humans, dogs and cats have an essential dietary requirement for vitamin D due to an inability to adequately form vitamin D in the skin. Vitamin D deficiency is characterized by an inadequate mineralization of the bone and growth plates, also know as rickets<sup>12</sup>.

## References

12. Nutrient Requirements of Dogs and Cats. National Research Council of the National Academies. The National Academies Press, Washington, DC, 2006.

