

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS IN CAT BREEDING



MYTH:

Food fed to a lactating queen has no impact on the milk quality and quantity.

NUTRITIONAL TRUTH:

The diet given to a lactating queen can have an impact on the quality and the quantity of milk. A nutritional solution specifically adapted for the reproduction stage has a positive influence on the following:

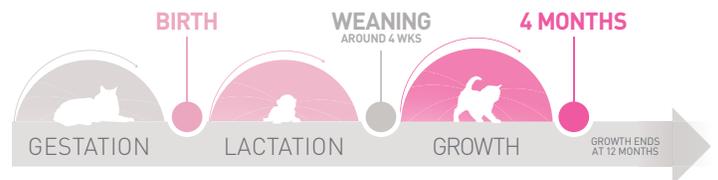
- Queen's body condition and overall health
- Neonate vitality and growth during nursing
- Healthy lactation, including the quality and quantity of milk

Maternal milk is very rich and made up of all the nutrients necessary for her kittens' healthy development including proteins, fats, carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins. The proportion of these constituents changes over the course of lactation in line with the kittens' needs. To have a positive influence on the quantity and quality of milk production, the diet given to the lactating queen should be rich in fatty acids, with a protein level that is perfectly adapted to prepare for lactation and support optimum milk production.

It's important to note litter size affects the fat percentage of milk. However, it has no effect on the other milk constituents (proteins, carbohydrates, etc.) Generally, milk fat percentage decreases as litter size increases. The reason is most likely to be the dilution of fat that occurs with a larger litters' demand for a higher total volume of milk.

Other factors can also influence milk quality and quantity, such as:

- Stage of lactation: milk production peaks around the fourth week of lactation
- Teat position: milk from back teats has a higher lactose concentration than from the front teats; back teats also produce a higher volume of milk



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Royal Canin® Professional Birth & Growth formulas meet the unique nutritional demands of the mother from gestation and lactation and kittens through weaning and growth.

