



July 3, 2019

Re: Company Statement on Recent FDA Update on DCM

Like all pet guardians, we remain concerned and attentive to ongoing developments related to dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs. The FDA recently provided an update on their continuing review of cases of DCM in dogs not traditionally having a genetic predisposition to developing the condition. The underlying concern has been the potential connection of grain free diets and DCM. Based on their update, the FDA has not been able to determine a linkage of diets to DCM, are not recommending a specific change in diet based on findings to date and will continue to gather data and work towards a more conclusive determination. So far, the issue has proven to be complicated and limited to a small sample set of cases across a broad population of dogs in the United States.

At Horizon, our ultimate mission is pet health. We continue to monitor all developments related to the medical findings and FDA reports and act proactively upon any learnings we uncover. Although foods can state grain free, the quality and combination of proteins can vary greatly. As a self manufacturer, we source all ingredients we use in our formulas ourselves and control all aspects of its manufacture. Since our inception, we have committed to a high meat content approach to our foods with a variety of proteins and carbohydrates combined in balanced diets. Animal based proteins are a good source of naturally occurring taurine, methionine and cysteine and diets like Horizons that focus on higher levels of animal protein provide elevated levels versus less meat focused foods.

Given that DCM in dogs could be linked to a deficiency in taurine, and considering that increasing the levels of taurine in our foods does not pose any health or dietary consequence, we began boosting our taurine levels by adding taurine as a supplement to the diets beginning last summer.

Beyond this, we have always offered diets with whole grains as an alternative and we are now reviewing the introduction of a broader offering of grain based diets to simply provide variety to consumers that believe in the high nutritional and manufacturing standards set by Horizon.

We thank all our pet parents that have believed in the quality of Horizon. Our commitment to optimal pet health will not waver and we will remain vigilant to always learning about advancements in pet health science and utilizing best practices and quality ingredients to assure we are doing the very best for families and pets that depend on us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff English", is positioned above the name and title of the signatory.

Jeff English
President
Horizon Manufacturing Inc.