



Information on FDA Release Regarding DCM and Grain-Free Diets

July 2019 Update

In June 2019, an update to the 2018 FDA release was published, detailing recent reports of canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). The referenced anecdotal reports have inspired further investigation into a potential link between diet and DCM. The following studies have explored the effects of grain-free, meat-based diets on DCM risk:

Echocardiographic phenotype of canine dilated cardiomyopathy differs based on diet type
(Journal of Veterinary Cardiology, December 2018)

Taurine deficiency and dilated cardiomyopathy in golden retrievers fed commercial diets
(PLOS One, December 2018)

Although the aforementioned studies do not provide data on vegan diets, a recent study at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine reported normal blood work and echocardiogram results in a population of dogs consuming v-dog kibble.

From Sarah M. Cavanaugh, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Cardiology):

“A comprehensive feeding trial of v-dog was performed in 30 client-owned healthy adult dogs. In addition to routine blood work, amino acid levels and echocardiograms (cardiac ultrasound) were monitored in the dogs. None of the dogs developed dilated cardiomyopathy, taurine deficiency, or any other major health issues. Our results suggest that v-dog is both safe and nutritionally adequate. Ongoing and future research will explore the potential health-promoting effects of v-dog.”

About DCM

The underlying cause of DCM is not truly known, but is thought to have a genetic component. Taurine deficiency is one potential cause of DCM. Taurine has not been recognized as an essential nutrient for dogs, as dogs are able to synthesize taurine from the amino acids methionine and cysteine. However, taurine is included in many commercial dog food formulas in supplemental form. Although meat-based foods do contain taurine, the amino acid is denatured during processing and thus rendered unavailable in the finished product unless supplemented.

Certain breeds, including Great Danes, Doberman Pinschers, Newfoundlands, Irish Wolfhounds, Cocker Spaniels and Saint Bernards, are genetically predisposed to DCM. There is currently no known connection between diet and the condition in these breeds.

About V-dog Kibble

Since 2005, v-dog has seen thousands of healthy dogs thrive on our formula. Our kibble is formulated to be a complete and balanced diet for adult dogs and includes all essential amino acids, as well as taurine and L-carnitine. V-dog kibble contains healthy grains as well as other nutritious ingredients to ensure that it is a properly balanced diet. Please feel free to reach out to us, and we'd be happy to answer any questions or concerns that you have.