

Friends,

We would like to take this time to address some of the questions and concerns you may have on the important issue of Dilated Cardiomyopathy, or DCM, in dogs. On June 27, 2019 the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) released an update on DCM and the potential connection it may have with certain diets (grain-free foods). This has caused great panic, many questions, and lots of concerns over your choice of diet for your special family members.

We understand why you are alarmed-- your pets hold a special place in your heart, and you want to be confident in your choices concerning them. We promise that we too, want to help you make the healthiest and safest decisions for your pets, as well as our own. We take all issues involving the health and safety of pets tremendously serious; therefore, we'd like to help you navigate the existing information.

The FDA's announcement states, "The FDA is continuing to investigate and gather more information in an effort to identify whether there is a specific dietary link to development of DCM... Based on the data collected and analyzed thus far, the agency believes that the potential association between diet and DCM in dogs is a complex scientific issue that may involve multiple factors." Moreover, there is still NO concrete evidence of a link between diet—specifically grain-free formulas and DCM. The study is continuing and there are no actionable items from the FDA - no recalls, no foods being pulled off the shelves, and nothing but a great deal of panic and confusion. However, the headlines being shared cause fear and may lead you to believe otherwise.

According to the FDA's report, there have been 560 self-reported cases of potentially diet-related DCM between January 1, 2014 to April 30, 2019, compared to a total of 77 million dogs in the United States. This is an occurrence of less than 0.0007%, and 25% of the dogs are breeds that are genetically prone to DCM regardless of what they eat. Per report, "Dilated cardiomyopathy is recognized as a genetic condition in dogs, typically in large or giant breeds... It is believed to be less common in small and medium breed dogs." Tens of millions of dogs are eating these foods every day for years and are unaffected by DCM. By no regards are we minimizing these cases and to the 560 owners affected by DCM our hearts break with you and we are truly sorry.

While the FDA, and many local veterinarians, do not recommend switching your pet's food at this time, we have heard that several local vets are more insistent on switching pets to grain-inclusive foods, even if no symptoms are being observed. While we disagree with the panic, we understand the confusion surrounding this issue and your desire to do what you think is best for your dog. If you still feel strongly about switching to a grain-inclusive food, please come see us to consider your options! Our shelves are stocked with an assortment of formulas that best fit each pet's needs-- grain-inclusive, grain-free, freeze-dried, dehydrated, raw, and canned diets. There is no one brand or type of diet that is appropriate for every dog. There are numerous selections of foods to interpret — many that are safe and healthy and others that include multiple fillers and harmful ingredients. We understand that it can be overwhelming and confusing, but we are here to help you decide what is best for your pet.

The products we offer here at Three Tails are only items we would provide to our own pets. We stand behind the companies we carefully decide to stock in each of our stores and are confident in sending them home with you for your pets. We encourage you all to do your own research on this topic and other pertinent details revolving around the issue. We genuinely want the absolute best for each and every one of your pets as they all hold a special place in our hearts too. Please know that we are here to answer any of your questions and help your pets live a long, happy and healthy life!

We found Lindsey Meyer's article to be extremely helpful explaining this information and providing advice on moving forward: <https://primalpetfoods.com/.../fda-update-to-dcm-investigatio...>

Zignature's Statement: <https://zignature.com/statement-on-dcm/...>

Champion's Statement: <https://www.championpetfoods.com/faqs/media/>

Fromm's Statement: <https://frommfamil.com/connect/fda-dcm-20190701/>

Taste of the Wild's Statement: <https://www.tasteofthewildpetfood.com/view-all-faqs/...>