



Newsletter

August 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings BCVMA. I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer. I hope to see everyone at our next lecture on Wednesday August 14 at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club. It is being presented by Florida Veterinary Advisors and the subject will be maximizing the value of your veterinary practice. Soon fall and winter will be here, and our BCVMA social chair Dr. Stephanie Jones has been busy planning our annual party. Please mark your calendars for our annual BCVMA Holiday party on Wednesday December 4.

Our BCVMA board is looking to fill positions since Dr. Arch Gordon (treasurer and former President) and Dr. Lloyd Meisels (continuing education chair) will be stepping down at the end of this year. Both of them have given decades of service to the BCVMA and our local veterinary community. The BCVMA board is fun and social and it's a good way to get involved with our veterinary neighborhood. The board consists of President, Past President, Treasurer, Social Chair, Secretary, Continuing Education Chair, and Newsletter Chair. We have board dinners at local restaurants twice a year where we discuss current local veterinary issues and any board concerns. BCVMA annual membership fee is complimentary for board members. Please let me know if you are interested or having any questions about board membership.

I hope everyone wrote a letter to his or her local congressmen regarding the Fairness to Pet Owners Act. This legislation is unnecessary and only serves to benefit pharmacies by requiring veterinarians to provide prescriptions to pet owners regardless of whether they ask or even want them. The AVMA is trying to protect our livelihood from big pharma and other corporate infringement on our profession. This is an example of another reason to get involved with the BCVMA, FVMA and AVMA. BCVMA, AVMA and FVMA are membered by veterinarians that are looking out for us and our profession.

Best Wishes,

Lisa Feinstein DVM MPH



Newsletter

August 2019

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE WITH



Vet Directory

Please visit
www.BrowardCountyVMA.com and
click on "Vet Directory" to view our
compendium of local resources. If
you'd like to add your information to
this list, please contact Alicia Gordon
at bcvma@mail.com

Membership Information

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We look forward to seeing you!



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2019 State of Florida DBPR Veterinary Board Meetings

The Board of Veterinary Medicine meets throughout the year at different locations throughout the state.

Attending any of these meetings will earn you up to five CE law credits and will teach you what really transpires in Disciplinary Procedures that the Board considers. You will benefit by learning how to abide by state DBPR regulations and how to avoid being disciplined because of a violation.

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 9:00 am

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Upcoming Events

"Maximize the Value of your Veterinary Practice"

Presented by: CJ Burnett & Tom Seeko



Wednesday August 14th 2019

Registration 6:30pm

Dinner will be served at 7:00pm

Lecture begins at 7:30pm

During the presentation you will learn...

Creative arrangements to recruit and retain employees

- Maximize your retirement value
- Legal documents you should have
- Common and uncommon employee benefits
- Retirement plans to benefit the owner
- Protecting the value from lawsuits and threats
- Selling to an associate versus third party
- Minimizing the risk and taxes on a practice sale

By attending this event you will receive

1 hour of RACE continuing education

Admission is free to BCVMA Members.

FOR NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ATTEND, THERE IS A \$50 FEE.

ABSOLUTELY NO ADMITTANCE OF NON-MEMBERS WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT OF \$50 FEE - CASH, CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

Click to Register

2019 Veterinary Conference Schedule

The Gulf-Atlantic Veterinary Conference

December 5-8, 2019

Boca Raton, FL

TGVAC

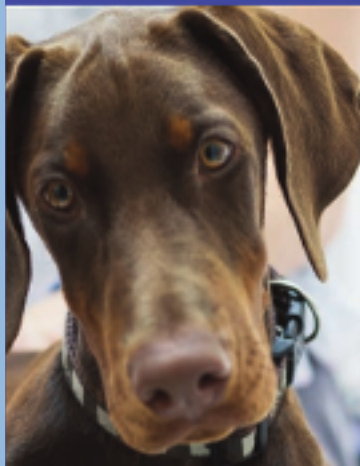
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Grain-Free Diet and Heart Disease in Dogs

By Robert Prošek, DVM, MS, DACVIM-Cardiology,
DECVIM-Companion Animals &
Dr Luiz Bolfer, Cardiology Resident

Grain-Free Diet and Heart Disease in Dogs

Florida Veterinary Cardiology released about a year ago an alert about an associated risk for some grain-free diets and the development of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs. In July of 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a similar statement relating DCM in dogs to the consumption of foods that have pulse ingredients. Pulses are a subset of legumes, harvested as a dry crop, with low concentrations of lipid. They include peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans which are generally high in lysine and low in methionine. For dogs, taurine is a dispensable amino acid synthesized from methionine and cysteine primarily in the liver. As a consequence, dogs when fed a grain-free diet are exposed to low dietary taurine intake and/or reduced synthesis of taurine from precursors like methionine and cysteine. The reasons for taurine deficiency in dogs are not completely understood. Between January 1, 2014 and April 30, 2019, the FDA received 524 reports of DCM (515 canine reports, 9 feline reports). Approximately 222 of these were reported between December 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019 (219 canine reports, 3 feline reports)

The high concentration of taurine in cardiac cells may explain the role of a taurine deficiency in the development of DCM. It has been speculated that taurine contributes to the reabsorption of calcium by the sarcoplasmic reticulum and increases the sensitivity of the myofilaments to calcium. Since companion animals most often consume static diets for long periods of time, overuse of any ingredient could facilitate higher risk of certain nutrient deficiencies if nutrient balance is not considered in the formulation. A diet based on Grain Free formulations can deplete calcium pools in the cardiac cells and impede proper contraction of the cardiac muscle tissue, resulting in nutritional DCM in dogs. Review of the canine reports by the FDA shows that most reports were for dry dog food formulations, but raw food, semi-moist food, and wet foods were also represented. When examining the most commonly reported pet food brands named in DCM reports submitted to the FDA, it is important to note that the graph below is based on reports that included brand information and that some reports named multiple brands (Source FDA database).

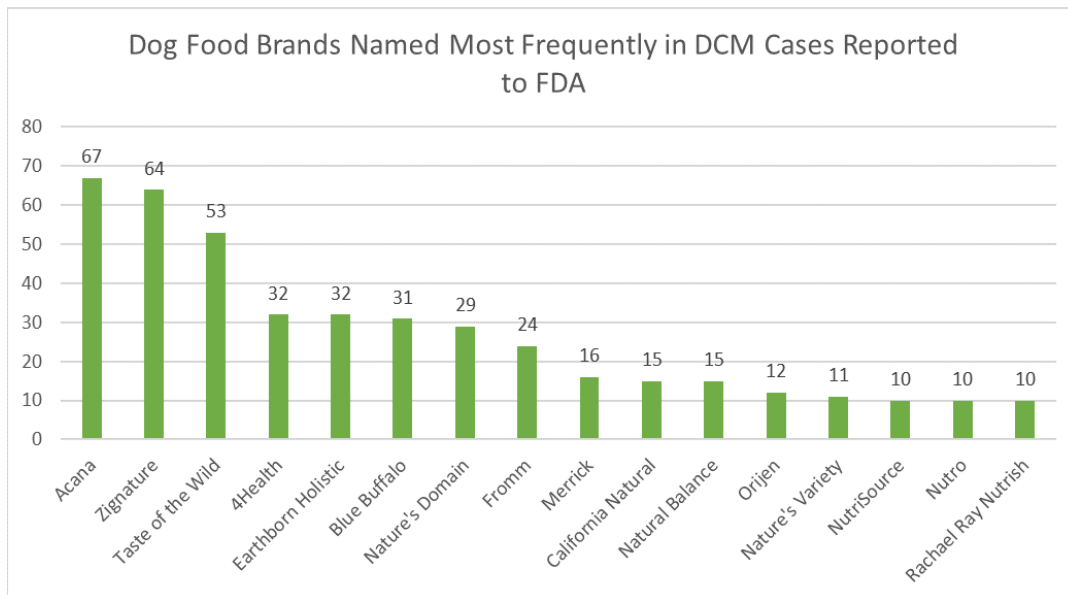
The first cases reported of DCM associated to Grain Free diet were Golden Retrievers. It is important to know that Golden Retrievers are not the only breed affected.

Continued....



Grain-Free Diet and Heart Disease in Dogs

By Robert Prošek, DVM, MS, DACVIM-Cardiology,
DECVIM-Companion Animals &
Dr Luiz Bolfer, Cardiology Resident



Other breeds were found to be at increased risk, including Afghan Hound, Australian Cattle Dog, Beagle, Belgian Tervueren, Border Collie, Boston Terrier, Bull Terrier, Chihuahua, Dalmatian, English Cocker Spaniel, English Springer Spaniel, Flat-coated Retriever, French Bulldog, Gordon Setter, Hound (unspecified), Irish Setter, Irish Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier, Jack Russel Terrier, Maltese, Miniature Schnauzer, Old English Sheepdog, Pomeranian, Portuguese Water Dog, Pug, Retriever (unspecified), Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rottweiler, Rough-haired Collie, Saluki, Samoyed, Schnauzer (unspecified), Shepherd (unspecified), Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Standard Long-haired Dachshund, Vizsla, Whippet, and Yorkshire Terrier.

If a patient is eating any diet besides those made by well-known, reputable companies or if eating a boutique, exotic ingredient, or grain-free diet, the appropriate course of action is to have the patient evaluated by a cardiologist for a screening echocardiogram. Measuring blood Taurine level can also be performed but some dogs diagnosed with DCM have normal whole blood taurine concentrations (16% in a recent study), leaving unanswered questions. Whole blood samples, and not plasma samples, should be used to assess circulating taurine concentrations.

A change in diet will be recommended regardless of the results obtained from any testing. Florida Veterinary Cardiology will assist you in selecting a new diet that avoids the ingredients of concern listed by the FDA such as lentils or chickpeas, but also may be due to other common ingredients commonly found in BEG diets, such as exotic meats, vegetables, and fruits. Points to consider when making a diet change include choosing a diet that does not contain high levels of legumes and potato as the main ingredients and selecting a good source of protein content avoiding novel proteins.



Grain-Free Diet and Heart Disease in Dogs

By Robert Prošek, DVM, MS, DACVIM-Cardiology,
DECVIM-Companion Animals &
Dr Luiz Bolfer, Cardiology Resident

Florida Veterinary Cardiology & Wynwood Dog Food CO., have developed a diet designed for all types of cardiac disease (**Cardiac Support: Turkey + Rice**). The diet features an elevated protein content, moderate fat level, and moderate carbohydrate level. It is also fortified with EPA and DHA, Omega 3 fatty acids that may help some types of heart disease, along with supplemental antioxidants like Vitamin E. Taurine and carnitine are added to facilitate normal cardiac function at level higher than found in any other maintenance or therapeutic diet. High levels of methionine and cysteine, precursors of taurine, were also added, which makes this diet a great repository diet to counteract the effects grain free diets, such as:

- Reduced production of taurine due to dietary deficiency;
- Reduced bioavailability of taurine or its building blocks;
- Increased losses of taurine in the feces, or;
- Altered metabolism of taurine in the body.

If your patient is on a grain free diet or identified through testing to have a low blood taurine level, we urge you to schedule an appointment with a cardiologist for further evaluation. We will also help determine the best course of action and medical treatments if indicated. In the case of a DCM diagnosis, diet change alone may not be sufficient and additional medications may be prescribed.

If you have questions about your pet's diet and are concerned about heart disease, please contact us at 1-844-4PetHearts, (305) 247-3001 or visit our website at floridavetcardiology.com or instagram [@floridavetcardiology](https://www.instagram.com/floridavetcardiology) or visit or start conversation with your local cardiologist and your primary care veterinarian.

About Dr. Robert Prošek

Dr. Robert Prošek is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) and has also become a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, Companion Animals (ECVIM-CA).

He is board-certified in cardiology. His post DVM training started as an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the University of Illinois followed by his cardiology residency training of three years. Dr. Prošek also pursued a master of science degree at the University of Illinois and received a degree in Veterinary Clinical Medicine. Special inteterests include all cardiovascular and respiratory topics especially echocardiography (ultrasound of the heart), novel medical and interventional therapies, blood based markers of heart disease and most importantly his patients.

Dr. Prošek was a clinical assistant professor of cardiology at the University of Florida for four years, where he was responsible for resident, intern and student training. Dr Prošek still serves as an adjunct professor of cardiology at the University of Florida, and serves as the cardiologist for Zoo Miami. He is also a reviewer for the Journal of Veterinary Cardiology, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Event Though all these activities keep him busy, he feels they are all very important as it allows him to stay well rounded which he hopes will translate into optimal high quality care for his patients.



Latest News From Broward County Animal Care & Adoption

Help Residents Protect their Pets this Hurricane Season

As we begin to enter the height of the 2019 Hurricane Season, Broward County Animal Care reminds all veterinarians to counsel pet owners on the importance of pet identification and preparedness.

This time of year can be stressful for pet owners. Not only do they have to think about the safety of their families, but also their dogs and cats. During severe storms and hurricanes, it is not uncommon for pets to escape from home and get lost. Many of these pets are brought to our shelter (or even your veterinary clinic) for safekeeping until they can be claimed.

That is why pet identification is so important. Broward County Animal Care recommends pet owner protect their dogs and cats in three ways:

1. A Broward County Pet Registration Tag. By law, ALL dogs and cats in the County (including “indoor cats”) must have and wear the Registration tag on a secure collar. The tag features a special license number that identifies the pet so that the owner can be contacted. If your Clinic sells the tag, please ensure that the tag is purchased when a rabies vaccine is administered. A listing of all Tag Suppliers is available at our website: www.Broward.org/animal under “Tag and Shots.”

2. A registered microchip. If the pet loses the County Registration Tag, a microchip, that is registered to a current phone number/address, will help to reunite the pet with the owner. Please counsel your client on the importance of registering the chip number. If they ever move or get a new phone number, the information should be updated.

3. A name tag with a phone number. A generic tag featuring a phone number or other contact information is an easy way for residents who find a lost pet to return him back home without the need to bring him to a shelter or veterinary office. Your office might already offer these tags, otherwise, they can be purchased at any large pet supply store.

In addition to these tips, remind your clients to consider their pets in all their hurricane plans—whether they stay in their home or evacuate. Extra food and water should be purchased ahead of time. If the pet takes prescription medication, make sure that they have enough on hand before, during and after the storm (about an extra two week’s supply) in case your office is unable to open right away post-storm.

All information regarding hurricane planning is available at the County’s main website at www.broward.org/hurricane.

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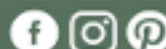
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FVMA Update from Dr. Marta Lista

FVMA District 6 Representative

Hello Colleagues,

The FVMA is hard at work for us! The first half of the year concludes a very active legislative session, another successful conference and the launch of our wellness and PSA committees.

The 2019 Legislative Session ended on May 3rd. The FVMA along with over 45 Florida veterinarians advocated for or against over 20 bills. A number of bills affecting animals and our profession did pass:

(a) Enhanced penalties were created for the harm or killing of police horses and police, fire, and search and rescue canines

(b) The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs were required to contract for alternative treatment for veterans, which includes equine therapy and service animal training therapy

(c) Veterinarians were authorized to report animal cruelty without client notice or consent.

Some of the bills that did not pass included legislation to: provide care for retired law enforcement dogs, prohibit the euthanasia of animals if a rescue organization will take custody, and limit the sale or lease of pets. Our proposal to revise and clarify the veterinary patient client relationship was favorably received in the Senate but ultimately did not pass in the House.

In addition, we forged further relationships with our legislators. These relationships are key in our legislative efforts to protect veterinarians.

On a national level, the misleadingly named Fairness to Pet Owners Act (H.R. 1607/S.1290), is once again gaining momentum in the U.S. House and Senate. We need everyone to write to their elected officials to oppose this unnecessary prescription mandate. You should have by now received an email from the AVMA, FVMA or SFVMA. In 3 clicks you can send a letter to your elected officials opposing this legislation.

[Write to your legislators.](#)

The FVMA TGAVC is Dec. 6-8, 2019 at the Waldorf Astoria in Boca. Join us for a great opportunity for learning for every member of the practice team. In addition, by attending FVMA conferences you are also contributing to the success of the FVMA which helps fund member services and programs.

The FVMA wellness committee has added many resources dedicated to mental health and well-being available on our website. We are looking for a wellness representative from the local associations. Please let me know if you are interested in assisting in this much needed area of our profession. The PSA committee is on their way for our newest program dedicated to veterinarians and consumer education promoting our profession.

Thank you for your membership in the FVMA. As the third largest state VMA, your membership and support is of vital importance for our programs and advocacy. If you want to find ways to become more involved in the FVMA or if you have suggestions on how the FVMA can better serve you, please feel free to contact me.

Marta Lista DVM

listamp@yahoo.com

(305)2610793



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DVM, DABVP, CCRT
Board Certified - American Board of Veterinary Practitioners & Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist



Jon Dee
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Humane Society of Broward County

While most people think of the Humane Society of Broward County as an adoption center, the HSBC also offers a wide variety of programs and services. Some of these are:

Puppy Pre-School classes are offered in four-week group sessions on Saturday mornings. Puppies will get to socialize with other puppies and learn puppy manners. A different Puppy-Parenting issue will be covered each week. The cost is \$100 for puppies adopted from the HSBC and \$120 for all others.



"Doggie Be Good" Training Classes are offered in six-week group sessions with classes on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings or Saturday or Sunday mornings. Learn how to teach your dog the rules through positive reinforcement dog training classes. The cost is \$150 for dogs adopted from the HSBC and \$180 for all others.

To register for any of the dog classes please visit www.humanebroward.com or call Stephanie

Rodgers, CPDT at 954-266-6819. We hope you will share this with your clients, so your dog clients can be on their best behavior when they visit you.

The Humane Society of Broward County also offers Pet Loss and Grieving Support Sessions which are held free of charge on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 5:30 at the shelter. To register call 954-266-6848. The Humane Society of Broward recognizes that the relationship between a companion animal and a person is a special one. When that beloved pet dies, an important love bond is broken. Most people suffer grief and mourning. These feelings must be acknowledged in order to resolve them. Many adults find it difficult to acknowledge and show their grief over a pet for fear of being thought of as "silly." On the contrary, grieving the loss of a pet is a natural process and many of the feelings and reactions are similar to those of grieving the loss of a person.

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Dr. Peggy Carlow Small animals, PT/relief	954-303-6020 or 954-341-9552	pmcarlow@att.net
Dr. Diana Drogan Small animals, ER, relief	954-854-9426	dr.diana.dvm@gmail.com
Dr. Cindy Rigg relief/surgery, rehab therapy	305-968-8345	csrigg@yahoo.com
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Dr. Claudia Valderrama	305-297-8893	claudia67v@aol.com
Dr. Stephen Waldman Small animals, PT/relief	561-214-3306	swaldman85@comcast.net
Dr. Fumiko Miyamoto Small animals GP/ER, PT/relief	352-339-2207	theasiandoctorllc@gmail.com www.theasiandoctorllc.com
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Classifieds & Advertising

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Broward County Veterinary Medical Association, Inc., 2801 E. Commercial Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308.

Editorial Guidelines: Letters and articles are welcome. All submissions must be signed and the author's name will be published. Entries must be received 7 days prior to the publication date.

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- Call 954-483-3313 or 954-748-9738 for further information.

FOR SALE:

Laser K-Class with Surgical Table for Sale

- Only 3 years old
- Valued at \$50,000 asking \$14,000
- Call 954-483-3313 or 954-748-9738 for further information.

HELP WANTED:

Regular Relief wanted one day a week at [Camelot Animal Hospital](#)

- Call 954-473-0192
- Attn. Dana or Kathy

HELP WANTED:

Seeking PT/FT Relief Veterinarians

- New Graduates Welcome
- Energetic, Personable, and Willing to be Part of our Team
- Great Atmosphere and State of the art Equipment
- Call 954-483-3313 or 954-748-9738 for further information.

HELP WANTED: Unique opportunity to be at the forefront of modern House Call Practice! We are seeking Independent-minded veterinarians interested in practicing top quality in-home veterinary care for pets. We offer an array of on-demand services to clients, built in schedule flexibility, and complete logistical support for the practitioner.

Please email resumes, which will be kept confidential, to msanwald@fetchmyvet.com, or call Michael Sanwald, DVM at 954-626-6504 to inquire further.

