

FAQ – Canine Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM)

At Tuffy's Pet Foods, we take great pride in offering pet parents trusted products like NutriSource that they can feed their pets with confidence. In addition to your pet's overall health, transparency is of the utmost importance to us. We understand canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) may be a concern, so we've provided additional information to help navigate this complex issue.

What is canine DCM and what are the symptoms?

Canine DCM is a rare but serious heart condition identified decades ago. Certain breeds, especially large and giant breed dogs, are genetically predisposed and may develop the condition in their lifetime. Additional factors relative to the underlying cause of this condition are not fully understood. Possible signs of DCM include decreased energy, cough, difficulty breathing and episodes of collapse. If your dog is showing possible signs of DCM, please contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

How many DCM cases have been reported?

Between January 2014 and April 2019, the FDA received 524 case reports of DCM (515 canine reports, 9 feline reports). By comparison, there are an estimated 77 million dogs in the United States today.

What are the current concerns related to diet and DCM?

In July 2018, the FDA announced it was studying canine DCM and a possible link to grain-free dog foods that contain a high proportion of peas, lentils, other legume seeds (pulses), and/or potatoes in various forms (whole, flour, protein, etc.) as main ingredients (listed within the first 10 ingredients in the ingredient list, before vitamins and minerals). On June 27, 2019, the FDA identified a multitude of brands, including NutriSource, linked to the reported cases they are researching. The latest FDA update states: "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 issue that may involve multiple factors."

Is there research on the link between diet and DCM?

In its latest update, the FDA has stated that it has not established why certain diets may be associated with the development of DCM in some dogs, and that further scientific research needs to be done to determine if there is a connection between diet and DCM. There is currently no scientific data providing any evidence that links any grain-free foods, including NutriSource, to DCM. The latest FDA update states: "At this time, we are not advising dietary changes based solely on the information we have gathered so far."

What are you doing to address and/or combat potential DCM issues related to diet?

We take all potential pet health issues very seriously. As we've sought to proactively address DCM concerns, including a potential link between taurine-deficiency and DCM, we added supplemental taurine to boost naturally occurring levels as a safeguard to help protect pets until more scientific research is complete. We also began funding independent research at Kansas State University, a leading pet nutrition research university, to study pet health and the issue of canine DCM. In addition to our proactive measures, we will continue to follow recommendations from the FDA, and AAFCO, as additional research is released.

Is it safe to continue feeding my pet NutriSource products?

Yes, pet parents can feed NutriSource products with confidence. We take great care to ensure our pet foods comply with the guidelines and recommendations set forth by the FDA, American Association of Feed Control Officers (AAFCO) and other experts in pet nutrition. Our diets are developed by a dedicated team whose experience spans more than 65 years in the pet food industry. Additionally, we also work in collaboration with a Ph. D. in Animal Nutrition who is widely respected as one of today's foremost experts in pet food nutrition and research.

Where can I learn more?

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to our dedicated customer service team at info@nutrisourcepetfoods.com or toll free at 800-525-9155. The FDA has encouraged pet owners to consult their veterinarians, who may consult with a board-certified veterinary nutritionist, to determine the most appropriate diet for their pet's specific needs.

Our record and history of being the leader in solutions-based pet nutrition has been of great benefit to pets and families throughout the world. We are honored to play this important role in your lives and are so very thankful for your trust and loyalty.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CL NR', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Charlie Nelson
President
KLN Family Brands