

## **Nature's Variety DCM Statement for website/pet parents**

Our mission is Simple: We Want to Empower People to Transform the Lives of Pets

### **DCM in the News**

On June 27 the FDA issued a report on dilated cardiomyopathy, or DCM, which has raised questions about this condition in dogs and cats and any relationship to specific ingredients or certain foods. Currently, it is not known if there is a link. But, as pet parents and pet lovers ourselves, we at Nature's Variety take this issue very seriously and we want to do what we can to help determine if there is a link between diet and DCM, and how we can be part of providing a solution that helps all of our pets have long, happy and healthy lives.

### **Our Nutrition Expertise and Focus on Quality**

Since 2002, Nature's Variety has fed hundreds of thousands of pets with safe, healthy and high quality recipes. We are pet food experts committed to quality and safety. Our team includes a board-certified veterinary nutritionist, a Ph.D. in animal food science and other experts who are part of our research and development team. Together, our experts guide how we formulate, source, manufacture and test our products to ensure the safety, nutritional value and digestibility of every recipe we sell. All of our recipes undergo vigorous formulation, manufacturing and testing processes to help ensure their safety, efficacy and compliance with all AAFCO nutrient requirements. All of our recipes are tested multiple times annually at a 3rd party world-renowned laboratory. In response to the FDA's investigation last year, we started to analyze all of our foods for total dietary fiber, total starch, cysteine, methionine and taurine in addition to the normal protein, fat, moisture and crude fiber analyses. We also completed digestibility studies on our diets with positive results.

### **Committed to Transparency**

Nature's Variety has always placed a high priority on being open and transparent. We are available to answer any questions from our pet parents and the public online, by email or by phone. Should you have questions, our Nature's Variety customer service team has expanded our operations and is available at 1-888-519-7387. While there is uncertainty about the cause of DCM, beyond those breeds where it is known to occur, we will do our best to help by communicating the latest research on this condition. We will keep you informed of any additional information on this topic as it becomes available to us. Should you have additional questions, please talk directly with your veterinarian.

7/1/19

### **FAQs**

#### **1. What is DCM?**

Dilated Cardiomyopathy is a type of heart disease in dogs. The causes are unknown, but usually involve genetic, toxic, or specific nutrient deficiencies, none of which appear to be

the case in this recent series of cases. The FDA has reported over 500 cases of affected dogs. But DCM impacts less than one percent of all dogs in the U.S.

**2. Is it related to the food my dog/cat eats?**

Researchers are actively examining the issue but have not yet found a definitive link to canine or feline diet. The FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and the Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network (Vet-LIRN), a collaboration of government and veterinary diagnostic laboratories, continue to investigate this potential association.

**3. Do we know the cause of DCM? Is it linked to specific types of dog food?**

No, the specific cause of DCM is not known, and a dietary link has not been positively identified at this point. Based on the data collected and analyzed thus far, the FDA believes that "the potential association between diet and DCM in dogs is a complex scientific issue that may involve multiple factors."

**4. How do I know if my pet has DCM?**

The best step to take if you suspect your dog is having an issue is to have your pet examined by a veterinarian.

**5. How is Nature's Variety addressing this issue?**

Our Customer Care Representatives are available to answer your questions at 1-888-519-7387. In addition, Nature's Variety is committed to assisting the research that's being done to study the cause of DCM.