

Research and Perspective on DCM and Diet Champion Petfoods Jeff Johnston | SVP Research, Innovation and Product Development Christine Pendlebury, MSc | Director, Research and Nutrition

Overview Of Champion Petfoods

History Making Food for 35 years Making Grain-Free for 15 years

Award Winning Safety

SQF and SFSF Certification
GFSI Global Market Award

Thorough and Routine

Product Testing
 Formulated, and tested for nutritional safety and adequacy

Qualified Nutritionists, Veterinarians, and Scientists on Staff • Formulation • Validation • Food Safety • Research AAFCO FEDIAF AAFCO Feeding Trials for over a decade





Champion's Perspective

- 1. Grain-free foods are not hazardous to a dog's health and are not inherently dangerous. If they were unsafe, the FDA would have taken regulatory action. It has not done so.
- 2. DCM is a rare and complex disease in dogs, the development of which may be determined by the interplay of multiple factors.
- 3. We have seen no scientific evidence that the absence of grains in a dog's diet causes DCM or that the presence of grains in a dog's diet protects against DCM.
- 4. Implication of grain-free foods in the development of DCM is an over-generalization that is unsupported by robust scientific evidence.

Chample

Champion Study #1 Case Data Submitted To FDA Revealed Some Interesting Findings Males were over-represented in implicated diets Significant representation of breeds with potential link to DCM susceptibility based on past literature









Champion Study #4

Long-Term Feeding Of Grain-Free Food Resulted In Normal Blood Taurine

Purpose		
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Understand if extruded legume-based grain-free food has a negative effect on taurine status in dogs

Method Research followed AAFCO 26-week Canine Feeding protocols with additional plasma, whole blood and fecal measurements to assess taurine status in large breed dogs indings na and whole blood taurine in large breed significantly increased over time when fed a diet. no anti-nutritional/binding effect of

L-methionine	94*	128°	230"	0.0017	
Liserine	82.1	64.7	121.6	0.2243	
Taurine	107¢	157 ^b	192ª	0.0001	
Taurine (whole blood)	186 ^b	204 ^b	295ª	0.0021	
^a Within a row, means lacking a common superscript differ (P<0.05); n = 8 dogs					
Data from R.A. Danadelii et al., 2	020. A commen	cial grain-free diet daes	nat		
decrease plasma amino ocids and excretion when fed to Labrador R	tourine status etrievers. Trans	but increases bile acid lational Animal Science	4(8) 😮 CH	ampion Petfo	

33.5 60.8

8.3⁰ 12.2^{sh} P-value

0.0321 13.8°

66.4 0.1902

 33.3
 60.8
 66.4
 0.1902

 4.13
 2.60
 3.56
 0.432

 161^b
 185^b
 306^b
 0.0216

43.0 85.4 76.2 0.1412





Conclusions

- Grain-free diets are safe, and the implication of grain-free diets with DCM is an over-generalization that is unsupported by the scientific evidence
- · DCM is scientifically complex with multiple interrelated causal factors · Grain-free diets do not inhibit amino acid digestibility
- Long-term feeding of grain-free food resulted in normal blood taurine
- All grain-free foods tested by Champion were nutritionally complete and balanced as per AAFCO dog food nutrient profiles 2020
- A dog's risk for DCM does not depend on whether it eats a grain-free diet, but depends on factors such as genetic predisposition, health condition, ability to metabolize essential nutrients and feeding behavior

