

Pet Food Institute

DCM Presentation Abstract

President by: President & CEO Dana Brooks, MAB

Supported by: Nutrition Subcommittee Chairperson Marcie Campion, PhD Nutritionist & Pet Technical Lead, Cargill Animal Nutrition

Submitted on: September 1, 2020

Established in 1958, the [Pet Food Institute](#) is the trade association and the voice of U.S. cat and dog food manufacturers. Our producer members account for the vast majority of the dog and cat food made in the United States, with more than \$30 billion in domestic annual dog and cat food sales and annual exports of more than \$1.5 billion. PFI membership also includes companies that supply ingredients, equipment and services to dog and cat food makers.

Following the July 2018 announcement by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of its investigation into a possible link between diet and dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs not genetically predisposed to the disease, the Pet Food Institute focused on examining whether there might be any diet-related factors that could contribute to the occurrence of DCM. Our extensive review of relevant published research and our collective knowledge regarding pet food manufacturing suggests that the cause for DCM in dogs is very complex and multifactorial.

That is, the data and information available strongly indicate that there is no single factor causing or correlated to DCM in dogs, including those not genetically predisposed to the disease. It is clear that there are multiple factors, many of them non-nutritional, that may contribute to the occurrence of DCM. We therefore urge that any discussion of or further research on DCM acknowledge the complexity and multifactorial nature of the disease by including consideration of non-nutritional factors in any examination of nutrition as a factor in the occurrence of DCM.