

lissa.scott

From: lissa [lissa@lissa.net]
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2005 7:56 PM
To: extmagdrl@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [ExtMAGDRL] DOE Topic #10 (sorta): Dog foods, UTIs, and water....

Hi All,

This is didn't start out as a DOE Topic #10, but it's worth sharing with all, especially those with Danes prone to urinary tract issues. I first thought my Dane girl Merlot was hormonally incontinent, but my vet diagnosed a UT blockage last month. After 2 weeks of Keflex and continued dosing with PPA, she just started leaking again last night.

It's been driving me NUTZ that she suddenly has this problem when the only real change she's had in the past few months was food. She was on Solid Gold for almost a year with no problems. Then 6 weeks ago I switched her to Eagle Pak Holistic.

Having lived with cats for eons, I know that some foods are more acidic, others more alkaline, and foods with high levels of magnesium are linked to bladder crystal formulation. I thought that was just a cat problem. But after treating Merlot for blockage without success, it occurred to me that dog food might also cause the same problems in dogs. So I started looking.....

I found this: "An often chronic problem for both in both canines and felines is the accumulation of magnesium amonium phosphate in their urinary tracts. This mineral compound is the cause of bladder disease and urethral obstructions in cats and dogs." <They also say that cranberry tablets can help acidify the bladder and prevent buildup of stones.>
<http://www.belfield.com/article4.html>

So I wondered if her food is causing crystals to form in Merlot's bladder. After looking at several Dog Food comparison charts, Eagle Pack has magnesium in significant quantities that it's listed in the ingredients. Although they list other minerals, Solid Gold does not list magnesium in its ingredients.

I also found this recommendation on dog and cat UTI's by the makers of Solid Gold: "Treatment and prevention should be planned accordingly. pH of Solid Gold Dry and Canned Dog and Cat Foods: On a pH scale, 0-7 is acidic, 7 is neutral and 7-14 is alkaline. Dry Dog Food ph 5.4 -5.6. Resultant ph of Urine is 6.4- 6.6. Canned Dog Food ph 6.05 Resultant ph of Urine is 6.08." http://caninestore.theshoppe.com/urinary_tract_disorders.html The Solid Gold is more acidic --- switching her off is likely why Merlot now has a UT blockage.

So bottom line..... Regardless what dry food you feed, you might want to check for magnesium in the ingredients list if you've got a dog that's prone to UTIs.

Finally, while surfing around looking for UTI information, I saw many sites that support MAGDRL's 6-hour midday relief requirement. This site in particular (<http://www.lbah.com/Canine/intro>) states in a nutshell -- a dog that doesn't empty their bladder regularly is more prone to buildup of bladder crystals. These form into stones which cause blockage and incontinence problems. The best prevention for UTIs is constant access to water and regular potty breaks.

Gee, guess this turned into a DOE Topic after all! LoL!!! Well, thanks for educating yourself to benefit all dog owners!

Lissa Scott
AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator
MD/DC Adoption Screens & Events
Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League
<http://www.magdrl.org>

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings

Community email addresses:

Post message: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com

Subscribe: ExtMAGDRL-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe: ExtMAGDRL-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

List owner: ExtMAGDRL-owner@yahoogroups.com

Shortcut URL to this page:

<http://www.onelist.com/community/ExtMAGDRL>

Yahoo! Groups Links

- To visit your group on the web, go to:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ExtMAGDRL/>
- To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
ExtMAGDRL-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
- Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to the [Yahoo! Terms of Service](#).