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From: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com on behalf of lissa [lissa@lissa.net]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2005 12:01 PM
To: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [ExtMAGDRL] DOE Topic #24: Incontinence and diet....

Hello All,

I just discovered something that I thought I would share as Dog Owner Education Topic #24.

My girl Merlot is the only dog in our household that can't tolerate raw food. For the past two years, we've fed her either Eagle Pack or Solid Gold kibble -- premium holistic diets. A couple of years ago she began experiencing night urination which was diagnosed as hormonal incontinence. She became the third dog in our home on daily doses of Phenylpropanolamine (PPA.) This med is usually prescribed by weight: Kuna is on 150 mg, Joya is on 100 mg, and Merlot was also prescribed 100 mg based on her weight of 100 lbs.

However, in the past year Merlot's dosage had to be gradually increased because on weight-based dosage, she'd still leak at night. This fall she finally got up to 300 mg -- twice what 155 lb Kuna takes. Something odd going on here....

Prior to living with my current canine crew, I was a "cat person" so I knew that dry kibble may be alkaline and has varying levels of magnesium which forms bladder crystals that can lead to bladder stones/blockage. I knew there was also a similar effect in dogs (see DOE Topic #10: Dog foods, UTIs, and water.) So logically speaking, if one chooses an acidic food that's low in magnesium (like the premium holistic kibble), one would think that the food would not impact incontinence.

WRONG!!! I've found that in Merlot's case, diet has a direct impact on incontinence. Last month we switched her to Wellness Holistic canned diet by Old Mother Hubbard (<http://www.omhpet.com/> .) She eats two cans a day and each costs \$1.60 locally, so the price increase is not significant. However within the past month, we've been able to reduce her from 300 mg to 150 mg PPA per day, and we'll continue to tinker with dosage until she gets down to the minimum that's effective for her. For us, the cost savings from the lower dose of PPA covers the slight increase in cost of food.

For those of you with female dogs on PPA, I can't guarantee that this will work for all. However if you're feeding dry kibble, switching to a holistic canned diet may be worth a try. There are also other benefits from the switch including lower carbs, improved appetite, faster digestion, reduced shedding, and of course smaller stools (sorry, had to do it! '~))

As always, thanks for educating yourself to benefit dogs and their owners!

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