THE FDA IS INVESTIGATING A POTENTIAL LINK BETWEEN CERTAIN DIETS AND CANINE DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY

COULD YOUR DOG BE AT RISK?

The FDA is investigating a number of reports of dogs that have developed canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), that were previously not known to have a genetic predisposition, after eating certain pet foods with lentils, potatoes or sweet potatoes, peas and other legumes as a main ingredient (the first 10 in the ingredient list). Many of the pet foods were labeled “grain free”. The number of reports has spiked in the last couple of years.

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is an illness that can be severe and even fatal. Normally dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is considered a genetic condition in large or giant breeds, while not common in small to medium breeds. The genetic form usually affects males that are middle to older age. The cases being reported to the FDA are a greater proportion of males to females, but involving a wide range of dog breeds, ages and weights. The dogs are showing possible signs of DCM or other heart conditions, which include decreased energy, cough, difficulty breathing and episodes of collapse. A previously healthy pet may suddenly exhibit these life-threatening symptoms. If your dog is experiencing any of these symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately. If the symptoms are severe, and your veterinarian is not immediately available, seek emergency veterinary care.

In the updated FDA report the majority of the identified diets were dry dog food formulations from the following dog food brands Acana, Zignature, Taste of the Wild, 4Health, Earthborn Holistic, Blue Buffalo, Nature’s Domain, Fromm, Merrick, California Natural, Natural Balance, Orijen, Nature’s Variety, NutriSource, Nutro and Rachael Ray Nutrish. The FDA is currently doing product testing on multiple products for minerals and metals, proteins, fat, crude fiber, total starch, cystine, methionine and taurine, as well as other components. For more detailed information see <https://fda.gov/animal-veterinary/news-events/fda-investigation-potential-link-between-certain-diets-and-canine-dilated-cardiomyopathy>?.

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