

Healing Your Pet through Nutrition
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My clients come to me for solutions to their pets' health problems. Many times they are looking for the "natural" medicine that is going to do what the drug their last veterinarian prescribed did, but without the scary side effects. I think they are a little disappointed when my advice begins with diet. How boring. And, they think, "I already feed a good diet, right?" Science Diet, or God forbid, Beneful.

Well, let me tell you that diet is the very first step in the solution to 99% of the problems I see. Maybe only the first step, but we can't take those other steps until we have that nutritional foundation in place. Why, you ask?

Most of the chronic problems I see, from allergies to kidney failure, begin showing their face AFTER the body has tried it's hardest to heal on its own. Many times, a body needs more support, and more raw material, to heal injured or poorly functioning cells or organs. The body just can't manage big repairs or healing without more help.

Good nutrition can be that help. Healing, repairing, and quieting inflammation require the coordinated functioning of hundreds of enzyme systems in each cell. These enzymes are dependent upon cofactors such as B vitamins and minerals. Many other nutritional components, such as antioxidants, are also needed for repair and maintenance. As a matter of fact, a wide spectrum of nutrients act as building blocks for all these processes. If any one element is in short supply, or in the wrong proportions, healing might not be possible.

Conventional diets often cannot meet these needs. Most are over processed, with loss of antioxidants, and enzymes, as well as the creation of free radicals (see my article *Why Raw Food?* at www.hawksviewholistic.com). In addition, the excess carbohydrates present in most kibbles lead to more inflammation and the feeding of cancer cells. The poorest quality diets use by-products as the primary protein source, which leaves your pet with the burden of excreting the un-needed amino acids, while still being deficient in the needed ones. Many diets lack the correct amount of organ meats, which are vital for good health. To compensate, companies add synthetic vitamins and poorly utilized mineral sources to make up for the poor ingredients.

A good diet, in contrast, will be based primarily on muscle meat, with the remainder of ingredients including organ meat in the appropriate proportion, vegetables, fruits, and whole nutrients as appropriate for the species. Protein sources are bioavailable, with the correct ratio of amino acids. Vitamins and minerals are supplied from whole foods as much as possible. Fresh or dehydrated foods, with their nutrients undamaged, are preferred over kibbled or canned foods.

After I talk about a good basic foundation for diet, I routinely add a Standard Process supplement (or two, or four!) to the program. These supplements include whole food ingredients such as organ glandulars, pea vine juice, carrot, alfalfa juice, and more. It is amazing how just a small amount of these whole food supplements can lead to major improvements in disease conditions. I know this from both my personal health experience and from seeing the results in my patients.

Why Standard Process supplements?

The Standard Process supplements are quite unique. By including organ glandulars and other whole foods, they provide the nutritional building blocks for organ and tissue repair, help provide a blueprint for the body to create healthy tissue, and help distract the body's own inflammatory response within an organ or tissue.

For instance, if I were to see your pet with kidney failure, I would likely talk about an appropriate whole food, meat-based diet along with Standard Process Canine or Feline Renal Support. The goal would be to supply the right amount of amino acids in the right proportion (available in meat, not grain!), extra moisture (not available in kibble!), a full spectrum of nutrients, the building blocks for kidney cells (organ glandulars), the blueprint for healthy kidney cells (cellular extracts in the formulas), and the decoy for inflammation in the kidney (cellular extracts again) to allow repair.

If your pet has allergies, I would likely talk about a fresh diet without grains, along with Standard Process Canine or Feline Enteric Support and Immune System Support - the theory here being that much of our immune response and generalized inflammation have their origin in the intestines.

In both these examples, we would use nutrition as the primary modality for healing, before adding anything else like herbs or homeopathy. What we are doing here is enabling the body to heal itself by providing all the necessary nutritional components for healing. Drugs can't do that.

I have successfully treated my own horse with silicosis (similar to miner's lung in people) by distracting the immune attack on his lung tissue, while providing both the nutritional building blocks and a blueprint for regenerating normal lung tissue with Standard Process Pneumotrophin PMG and Matrix mushrooms. My cat's gingivitis and dental disease improved on Standard Process BioDent and Standard Process Feline Immune System Support. The Standard Process supplements can be used for so many problems- hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, liver problems, kidney failure, heart problems, adrenal fatigue, and more. The examples are endless. Their Canine and Feline Whole Body Support formulas are a great addition to any program, supplying nutritional healing support for all major organs in the body.

In my practice, I use the Standard Process products for almost every case. In the company's words, "Every case has a nutritional component". I firmly believe this. If the body doesn't have all the building blocks for repair, your pet won't get all the healing that is possible. Why allow your pet to struggle with deficiencies, when what you want is complete healing?

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