



July 24, 2018

Updated Statement on Dilated Cardiomyopathy and Potential Links to Grain Free Foods

Tuffys Pet Foods is issuing this statement to update our position related to the United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Statement regarding the potential link between Dilated Cardio Myopathy (DCM) and Grain Free dog foods.

Tuffys continues to research this matter and has gained a better understanding of the potential concerns raised by the FDA. Today, to our knowledge, there simply is not a volume of research that allows for any statistically significant correlations or conclusions regarding any potential link between DCM in non-predisposed dog breeds and ingredients like peas, lentils, other legumes or potatoes. The small amount of available data shows a lack of consistency at this time and more study is required to understand this issue. Tuffys is aware that certain breeds, many large breed in nature may have a pre-disposition to DCM and that taurine levels in the food may play a role in helping these breeds avoid DCM. Because of that understanding Tuffys already supplements taurine in our large breed diets and in our Adult diet.

Given the uncertainty of the research surrounding the reported cases of DCM in breeds not genetically predisposed to DCM Tuffys is immediately supplementing taurine above the naturally occurring levels in all of our NutriSource and Pure Vita diets in the amount referenced by the FDA. While the end results of studies into this issue are unknown, the responsible action is to err on the side of caution by delivering additional taurine as it will not have any adverse effect on pets to do so until such time as scientific study or regulatory agencies establish guidelines.

Tuffys offers diets that deliver healthy, effective solutions for pets. As an industry leader in pet nutrition Tuffys grain and grain free NutriSource and Pure Vita diets all feature our exclusive Good 4 Life supplements and are ideally suited to rotational feeding or smooth introduction to pets.

Tuffys invites pet owners with concerns or questions to view a video statement from our family of ownership at www.nutrisourcepetfoods.com/fda-updates or to contact us directly at info@klnfamilybrands.com or toll free at 800-525-9155.

Tuffys remains committed in its support of any and all studies that promote the health and well-being of pets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CN".

Charlie Nelson
President
KLN Family Brands

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chase P. Rasmussen".

Chase Rasmussen
VP Sales & Marketing
Tuffys Pet Foods

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Schmitz".

Dan Schmitz
National Sales Manager
Tuffys Pet Foods