

*Update on concerns regarding a possible connection between grain free foods and canine heart disease.*

Dear EAC Client,

We have had multiple inquiries regarding our advice for best pet food nutrition after a recent report from the FDA linking grain free pet food and heart disease. It is not fully understood what the actual cause of these heart disease cases is- just that a significant number were on grain free foods. “Grain free” is a relatively new marketing description that has been piggybacked with the human interest in gluten/grain free foods. There are a lot of marketing dollars invested but unfortunately very little to no research behind grain free feeding to demonstrate its effectiveness or safety in pets.

Grains are not inherently bad, and actually provide a number of nutritional benefits. Grain allergies do exist in pets, but only in a very small percentage of the population. Because of that, as a general rule, we are not recommending grain free foods unless there is a specific diagnosed reason or condition. Our approach at Eagle Animal Clinic is to stick with what we know and what has been proven over decades of research. Because of their published scientific data, we support foods made by Royal Canin, Hill’s Science Diet, Iams, and Purina ProPlan.

Does that mean any foods not made by these companies are suspect? No, not necessarily – it just means that we have not specifically evaluated their published data and products. Does that mean that you need to immediately stop feeding grain free food? No, also not necessarily – please just keep in mind that we may not have all the information regarding the long term effects of feeding grain-free foods just yet. We will keep you apprised as further research and information becomes available.

For additional information regarding a possible connection between Diet and Canine Heart Disease, please see the following article:

<https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ResourcesforYou/AnimalHealthLiteracy/ucm616279.htm>

Sincerely,

Dr. Katie Wright, Dr. Kathi Berman, and Dr. Amber Craft