

Efficacy of ultra low-fat, fresh-prepared diets using novel versus common-source proteins for the management of Canine Protein-losing Enteropathy (PLE)

Purpose of study

To compare clinical and biochemical responses to novel protein versus common protein ultra-low fat, fresh-prepared diets in dogs with protein-losing enteropathy (PLE).

As part of the study, five visits to the UTCVM are required. Owners must be willing to weigh their dog's food daily for the entire 12 weeks. The owner will be required to bring a fecal sample to each recheck appointment.

Inclusion criteria

- Dogs >1 year of age
- Dogs < 28kg
- Must have vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, inappetence, and/or 3rd spacing (peritoneal effusion, pleural effusion, or edema) of at least 2 weeks duration
- Canine Chronic Enteropathy Activity Index (CCEAI) > 5
- Plasma albumin must be < 2g/dL
- Owner willing to feed 100% study diet with no added toppers or treats
- Previous exclusion of other causes of hypoalbuminemia including liver dysfunction, proteinuria, and hypoadrenocorticism must be ruled out prior to consideration on the basis of pre- and post-prandial bile acids, urine-protein creatinine ratio, and a resting cortisol, respectively
- Previous exclusion of intestinal parasitism as detected by fecal flotation
- Previous exclusion of evidence of gastric or intestinal neoplasia on the basis of abdominal ultrasound



Study benefits

- Initial visit: physical exam including body weight, body condition score, muscle condition score, complete blood count, chemistry with electrolytes, gastrointestinal (GI) panel, prednisone, clopidogrel. The approximate value for the initial visit is \$605.
- Recheck exams at weeks 2, 4, 8 & 12 including body weight, body condition score, muscle condition score, repeat chemistry and electrolytes. The approximate value for each recheck appointment is \$195.
- A fresh-prepared frozen diet will be provided at no cost to the owner while enrolled in the study, valued at \$1,800-7,900, depending on the size of the dog.

Costs to client

Initial work up for the diagnosis of protein losing enteropathy must be undertaken at the client's expense.

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