

Canine's Best Behavior

Bringing out the best in yes, even YOUR dog

Dr. Sharon Benz-Leader Nutrition & Labeling Team
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Center for Veterinary Medicine
7500 Standish Place HFV-228
Rockville, Maryland 20855

February 26th, 2002

Dear Dr. Benz,

I am writing to you in regard to the pulling of animal nutritional supplements from the shelves.

I want to tell you about my 12- year old Big Yellow Dog Willie. He's kind of like a big rug with feet. He's got arthritis and his hips aren't so great. We use pain medication when he needs it, but long-term medication is too hard on his system.

Everyday, he gets 1000 mg. of Glucosamine & Chondrotin. We get the chewy liver flavored kind from the Trader Joe's. Sometimes, the old guy runs around for a whole minute! He can also manage to jump up and off of my bed without assistance. This is a special thing that only he gets to do and can do as long as he wants to/is able to.

I also supplement all 4 of my dog's food with sea meal. It helps regulate my 12- year old Pit/Shepherd mix Erma's thyroid plus they all look fantastic!

My two younger dogs: a 2-year old Beauceron Picard and a 3-year old Dutch Shepherd Spawn are both working bomb detection dogs and after a 12 hour day of sniffing they benefit greatly from the supplements in their diet. A regular diet of kibble only would not meet their nutritional needs. They work hard!

I am a Canine Behavior Consultant (AKA a dog trainer with a lot of certifications) and frequently use homeopathic/holistic products like flower essences in the treatment of problems like (but not limited too) separation anxiety, aggression & phobias.

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They are used responsibly, in conjunction with a program of management/modification and don't have the liver damaging side effects found in the long-term use of psychotropic drugs.

If these products are pulled from the shelves, my only choice will be medications. Something I prefer to use rarely. I researched the use of supplements extensively prior to ever considering them in real life application and have seen substantial improvements both physical and mental in dogs who (their owner's were being advised to) be put to sleep whether it was because they were in pain or due to their behavior problems.

I need to have access to supplements that are designed by Veterinarians knowledgeable in animal medicine to guarantee that the dosage will be appropriate and the chemistry correct. I do not want to play guessing games with human supplements. My clients trust me to be responsible-this removal of supplements will hinder my options greatly.

Please contact me if you would like case studies or I can answer any questions.

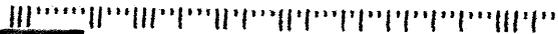
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,



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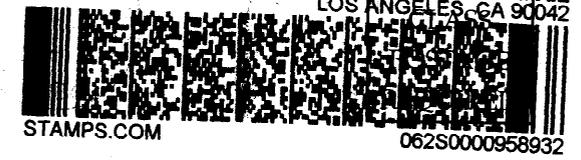


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