

Optagest® Digestive Aid – White Paper Review

More than 6.5 million dogs and 12.4 million cats suffer from chronic digestive problems. Many more animals suffer symptoms from acute digestive upset. 70% of a dog and cat's immune system is housed in the digestive tract, a healthy digestive system will translate into an overall healthier animal.

Causes of poor digestion are often unavoidable and may include:

- Food change
- Age
- Strenuous exercise
- Antibiotic use
- Illness
- Genetic factors

Uncomfortable symptoms such as gas, constipation, diarrhea, coprophagia and antibiotic upset that result from poor digestion may be avoided with supplementation.

The prebiotics and digestive enzymes in the supplement Optagest work synergistically to balance the digestive tract and efficiently absorb the nutrients in the pet's diet. Optagest contains clinically proven levels of prebiotic called inulin. This inulin source is harvested from the root of a plant and is certified organic. The prebiotic selectively feeds only the good bacteria in the system and maintains a balance of beneficial native bacteria. The digestive system of a dog or cat is home to hundreds of different species of beneficial and potentially harmful bacteria. Bad bacteria are unable to breakdown prebiotics into food, so they starve. By feeding only the good bacteria, and starving the bad bacteria, Optagest will reinstate the balance of a healthy digestive system, typically in 1-3 days. (4, 5, 6, 7)

The digestive system in a dog and cat is shorter than the human system and very harsh. The low pH conditions make it difficult for orally fed live bacteria, known as probiotics, to survive this acidic environment and to gain a foothold. These probiotic bacteria are not native to dogs and cats and typically come from the soil or dairy strains making the conditions inside a dog or cat foreign to them. For these reasons, Optagest uses clinically tested levels of the prebiotic and no foreign probiotics. (1, 2, 3)

In addition to prebiotics, Optagest also provides a critical combination of plant based digestive enzymes to work with the pH of the dog and cat's digestive system. This will result in a more efficient digestive process. The dog and cat will have less and better formed stool due to the enhanced absorption. Key digestive enzymes in Optagest include protease, amylase, lipase and cellulase.

Regular and ongoing use of Optagest is recommended to maintain a healthy and balanced digestive system.

References

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