



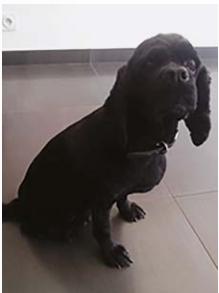
This case report demonstrates the benefits of PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS Canine HP Hepatic in the nutritional management of chronic hepatitis in the dog

Case Report of Canine HP Hepatic in the nutritional management of chronic hepatitis

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Introduction



Elfy was a six-year-old American cocker spaniel bitch (*photo 1*). She lived in a house in the countryside, with some land, and had a cat as a playmate. She was fed on a conventional supermarket dry food.

Photo 1: Elfy when presented at the vet clinic

Clinical examination

Elfy was presented to the clinic with depression, vomiting and diarrhoea. She had lost weight, down from 11.9 kg to 9.9 kg in two months (16% in 7 weeks, so more than 2% per week). Her rectal temperature was 38.5 °C. Elfy's mucosae were pale and she had stopped eating. Abdominal palpation found no abnormalities, except for a slight reaction to palpation in the liver area.

Additional examination and diagnosis

A thorough workup was performed. The results are set out below.

1. Complete blood count

Haematology showed values within normal physiological limits.

2. Biochemistry

The biochemistry profile revealed very high levels of hepatic enzymes (ALT: 329 U/l; alkaline phosphatase: 491 U/l; gamma-GT: 96 U/l), bilirubin (52.7 µmol/l), amylase (623 U/l), and pre-prandial (>30 µmol/l) and post-prandial (> 30 µmol/l) bile acids were all very high.

3. Urine test strip

A urine sample tested for urobilinogen and bilirubin showed high levels of bilirubin (4+).

4. Abdominal radiography

The abdominal radiography images were normal.

5. Abdominal ultrasound

Abdominal ultrasound revealed severe cholangiohepatitis and a gall bladder 90% full of sludge (*photo 2*). No other abnormalities were detected.

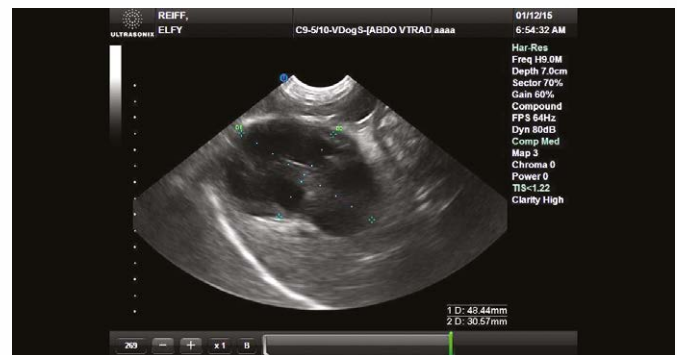


Photo 2: abdominal ultrasound image of Elfy's liver at J0

A diagnosis of hepatitis was made. The gradual weight loss over several months was suggestive of chronic hepatic disease.

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Management and follow-up

Given Elfy's clinical condition, emergency care was initiated using perfusion with lactated Ringer's, antiemetics and agents to protect the gastric and intestinal mucosae. Elfy was fasted.

After 48 hours of care, her clinical condition had improved (the vomiting and diarrhoea had disappeared) so we decided to discharge her with follow-up treatment to control the vomiting and diarrhoea. PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS Canine HP Hepatic was prescribed.

Ten days later, the owners reported vomiting and severe tremors. Everything returned to normal after administering half a sachet of Smecta (intestinal mucoprotective). Elfy started to eat well again and came into season, which had not happened for two years.

1. One month later

Elfy was happy and had gained 700 g in weight.

Ultrasound showed moderate cholangiohepatitis and a gall bladder 50% full of sludge (*photo 3*). Urine bilirubin was 2+. Haematology was normal. The biochemistry profile showed a marked improvement in alkaline phosphatase levels (256 U/l). There had also been significant reductions in bilirubin (1.71 µmol/l) and pre-prandial (>15 µmol/l) and post-prandial (>13 µmol/l) bile acids.

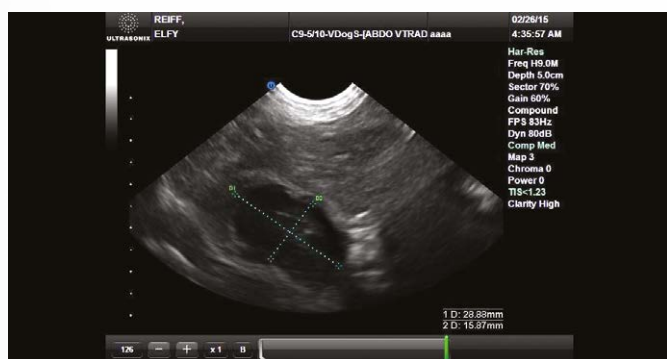


Photo 3: abdominal ultrasound image of Elfy's liver at J+1 month)

2. Two months later

Elfy was still just as happy and had continued to gain another 500 g in weight since her previous visit.

Ultrasound showed mild cholangiohepatitis and a gall bladder 20% full of sludge (*photo 4*). Urinary bilirubin was 1+. Haematology was still normal; in the biochemistry profile, only the alkaline phosphatase levels remained elevated (336 U/l).



Photo 4: abdominal ultrasound image of Elfy's liver at J+2 month

Discussion and conclusion

After testing the product, the practitioner stated:

"Although I have confidence in veterinary drug manufacturers in general, I am always slightly apprehensive about suggesting to an owner that they include their animal in a trial for a medicinal product or diet. Clients whose animals are recruited are mainly interested in the potential for positive results.

In this case, I have to say that the results lived up to and even exceeded our expectations:

- Excellent palatability and immediate acceptance of the diet by Elfy (who does not Hoover her food like a Labrador for example).
- Rapid, significant improvement in clinical condition (return of oestrus – was this a coincidence?).
- Very high owner satisfaction, in terms of both palatability and the perceived health of their animal.
- Significant improvement in hepatic biochemical parameters after only one month, and highly significant improvement after two months.

Finally, my team found it a pleasure to take part in this trial. Client satisfaction and the health of their animal companions is at the heart of everything we do, so we are satisfied with this trial. These encouraging results should, of course, be confirmed in a larger sample."