Probiotics for the Treatment of Diarrhea in Dogs and Cats

By Max Farmer

Diarrhea is a very common problem in dogs and cats throughout the United States. It affects multiple different animals in a variety of settings (ex. Shelters, Hospitals, and Homes). Many different negative consequences can result from long-term diarrhea such as severe dehydration and malnutrition. Diarrhea also has various possible causes. One of the most frequent causes is stress. When it comes to diarrhea, it is important to fully understand all aspects of diarrhea and take proper preventative measures to decrease the likelihood of pets becoming affected.

The gastrointestinal systems in animals are host to numerous different bacteria. Normally, there is a healthy balance between beneficial bacteria and potentially harmful bacteria. When dogs and cats become stressed the normal environment for the bacteria shifts and the balance tips in favor for the potentially harmful bacteria. With an imbalance of potentially harmful bacteria in the animals intestines diarrhea is a common consequence.

Simply put, if stress and an imbalance of the bacterial flora in the gastrointestinal system are the 2 causes of diarrhea, we want to treat those causes. To relieve stress we can help resolve any of the external causes. To restore the bacterial balance we need to supplement new beneficial bacteria in into the gut environment of the animal. Probiotics are a proven and viable answer to do that.

Probiotics are specific bacteria that are helpful in restoring the number of beneficial bacteria in the gut. They have been proven to help restore normal stool quality and form for animals that had diarrhea as a result of being in a stressful situation. There are different probiotic bacteria that are available and, multiple ones have been proven effective in resolving diarrhea in both animals and people. Probiotics can have a positive effect on stool quality in as little as 2 days.

In shelter settings, where animals are commonly stressed being in a new environment, probiotics are a frequent and established means of treating diarrhea. With less diarrhea, there is a more likely chance an animal will be adopted, less time will be invested unnecessarily and less animal suffering will result. Probiotics are also a proven treatment for owned animals that are prone to being stressed and having
Diarrhea is a frequent problem that causes suffering for both animals and their caretakers. Most commonly, there are minimal side effects, but life-threatening consequences can occur. Probiotics have been a tested and proven method to resolve diarrhea in animals. They are easy to administer, lead to long-term benefits, and can act quickly for both cats and dogs.

Bibliography

