

A little Note from Max Rabbiting About Food

I would like to share something with you all, as a problem shared is a problem halved. I am fed up with hearing my carer rabbit on about food and the effect it can have on dogs. He seems to be of the opinion that a lot of dogs can be fed any old food with no ill effects but that there are dogs whose lives can be affected significantly by the diet they are fed.



mite allergies which look the same as food when people buy large 15kg bags which last a long time. His advice would be to either decant the food into multiple airtight containers or buy smaller bags. Some manufacturers are now wise to this and inside their large bags of food are two smaller ones! Very astute!

A Mite Annoying

He sees quite a few dogs that seem to suffer from vomiting, diarrhoea or both if they get fed certain foodstuffs. These dogs possibly have a food intolerance. Most dogs get fed dog food, which is a good thing as they are balanced diets containing all the bits and pieces the body needs to continue with life as we know it. Another thing, which can become apparent is a food allergy. If a dog is allergic to food then signs similar to those of intolerances can happen. Skin problems can also become obvious if a dog is allergic to food: runny eyes, red itchy ears, itchy feet and bottoms, greasy and smelly coats! I personally struggle to see how what you eat can make you lick your feet, but I will bow to his presumed greater knowledge.

Yet another thing, which may cause an upset, is the storage mite. These are little mites, which can live and multiply in food. The population of mites will increase in a bag of food the longer it is left open. My carer will often see storage

How About Sausages and Bagels?

I think the point my carer would like to make is that if a dog shows either gastrointestinal signs like vomiting or diarrhoea, or skin allergy signs like itchy feet, ears and bottoms and a new bag of food has been started within the previous week or so then it would be wise to check whether the food is actually the same food as was fed previously. This can be hard to tell as not all manufacturers specify exactly what protein source is used! A phone call to the manufacturer might be helpful in this case, especially if you have the batch number of the food fed at the time and the batch number of the bag of food fed before. A lot of hassle I know.

Personally I am still living off weetabix, cheerios, toast, bagels, sweets, sausages and anything else the kids drop or feed me. I do hope they don't grow up too quickly!

My email is max@stowvets.co.uk.

My carer and his colleagues can be contacted on: 01451 830620. I look forward to hearing from you.

Max, the vet's Shih-Cairn