

FIBRE RESPONSE DIET

Effectieve dieettherapie voor katten met constipatie



Optimaal klinisch resultaat*

- Significante verbetering van de fecale score binnen enkele dagen.
- (Zeer) tevreden score bij eigenaar en dierenarts na 2 maanden.
- Geen recidivering gedurende lange periode.

* Managing feline constipation through a psyllium-enriched extruded diet; abstract aan te vragen via vet@royalcanin.nl



MANAGING FELINE CONSTIPATION THROUGH A PSYLLIUM-ENRICHED EXTRUDED DIET



INTRODUCTION

Constipation is defined as infrequent, difficult or absent defecation associated with faecal retention in the colon and rectum. It does not necessarily imply a permanent loss of function.

- Many cats suffer from one or two episodes of constipation without any further progression. The reasons are multiple: dehydration, ingestion of indigestible material such as cat litter or hairballs, obesity along with inactivity, can predispose a cat to constipation amongst others.
- Veterinarians use and prescribe various oral drugs: Lactulose, Cisapride, emollient or lubricant laxatives for instance.
- The dietary management of constipation in cats is either based on high fibre diets (total dietary fibre > 20% on an as fed basis) or on highly digestible diets supplemented with various soluble fibre sources including psyllium or pumpkin flesh.
- Physical and chemical properties of dietary fibre vary considerably. High levels of insoluble fibres, such as cellulose might not be as efficient in chronic feline constipation and could even worsen the clinical signs.
- Soluble fibre supplementation of highly digestible diets is not convenient especially with dry diets.
- All those elements are often hard to manage on a daily basis, especially regarding palatability and client compliance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Objective: to assess the use and efficiency of a psyllium-enriched dry extruded cat food, Fibre Response Feline (Royal Canin), on acutely or chronically constipated cats.

Recruitment of cats experiencing recurrent constipation (> 1 episode) and/or megacolon of various causes. Follow-up over a minimum of 2 months.

Any complementary medical therapy is decided by the clinician. However, to avoid simultaneous use of psyllium and/or paraffin, etc. the clinician is encouraged not to use supplementary medication.

Data collection: faecal score, frequency and of defaecation, number of recurrences, compared to previous medical +/- dietary management. Satisfaction of the owner and convenience of using only a diet vs. diet + psyllium and/or paraffin.

DESCRIPTION OF THE POPULATION

14 neutered cats (8 females and 6 males) and 1 intact male, age 43:36 months were presented to a referral gastroenterology clinic for recurrent constipation (> 1 episode and clinical signs > 2 wks).

Causes of constipation were variable (pelvic fracture malunion, pelvic canal stenosis, idiopathic megacolon) and refractory to usual medical and dietary management by the referring veterinarian. One cat had a rectal prolapse associated with the constipation.

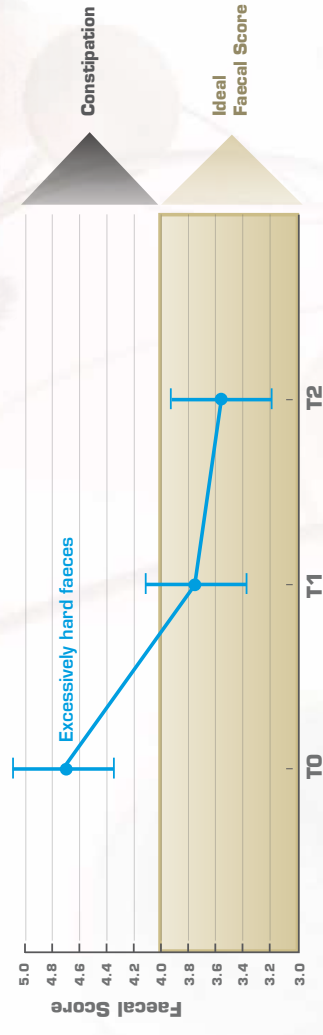
Following clinical examination and, in more severe cases, complete cell counts, biochemistry and colonic lavage, owners were instructed to feed a moderate fibre, psyllium-enriched, dry extruded diet, Fibre Response Feline (Royal Canin).

At the time of first examination, 10/15 cats were bright and alert, and able to pass small amounts of dry faeces. The 5 remaining cases were more severe, requiring fluids and electrolytes therapy as well as colonic lavage. All cats ate their prescribed diet readily.

RESULTS

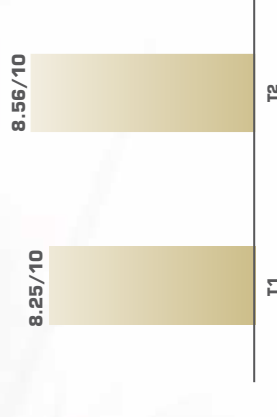
FECAL SCORE IMPROVEMENT

Adult cats fed Fibre Response Feline: median faecal score evolution initially (T0), after one month (T1) and after 2 months (T2).



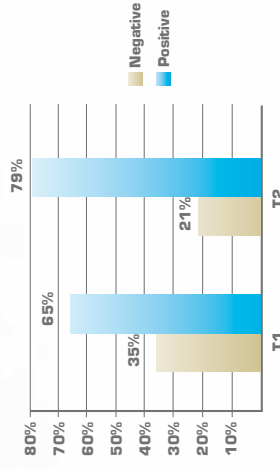
HIGH OWNER SATISFACTION RATE

Owner satisfaction scoring of the product after 1 month (T1) and after 2 months (T2).



VERY POSITIVE PALATABILITY RESULTS

Palatability as perceived by owners after 1 month (T1) and 2 months (T2).



CONCLUSION

The new Fibre Response feline diet has been proven to achieve a significant level of efficacy in constipation management in cats. All cats had dramatic improvement in their faecal scores within a few days of feeding the diet.

After 2 months of regular follow-up both veterinarian and owners were satisfied or very satisfied. After 9 months of feeding exclusively Fibre Response Feline (Royal Canin), there was no recurrence in any of the cats.