

# Comparative assessment of the palatability of a new renal diet in fussy canine eaters

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KIDNEY

## Introduction

Feeding an appropriate diet is the cornerstone of the management of dogs suffering from chronic kidney disease (CKD). Dysorexia is frequent in these patients<sup>(1)</sup>. That is why "renal diets" need to be highly palatable. Most palatability studies are conducted in research centres, in healthy animals trained for palatability testing<sup>(2)</sup>.

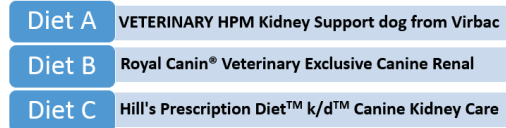


Fig. 1: Tested Diets

The aim of this study was to compare the palatability of a new dry renal diet (diet A, figure 1) to that of two commercial renal diets (diets B and C) in fussy client-owned dogs, to mimic the CKD patients' difficult appetite.

## Animals, materials and methods

52 adult [5-14 years old] dogs described as "fussy eaters" by their owners were followed up for six weeks. During the first 4 weeks, after a 4-day diet transition, they were fed exclusively diet A, as described on figure 2. Then the dogs received either diet B (n=27) or diet C (n=25) for 14 other days, after a new 4-day diet transition. For each diet, palatability was evaluated by the owners at the end of each 4-day diet transition (D4) and at D7 and D14, and additionally at D28 for diet A. Fisher's exact test was performed for the statistical analysis.

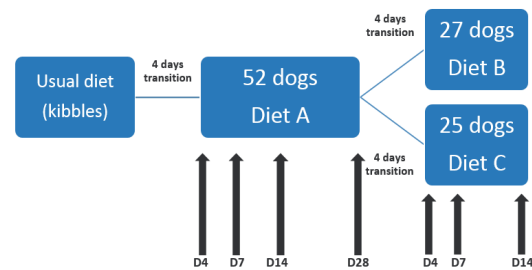


Fig. 2: Study design

## Results

At D4, no statistical differences were observed between the three diets. Compared to their usual diet, more dogs preferred the new diet when testing diet A as opposed to diet B at D7 and D14, and to diet C at D14 (see figure 3). According to the owners, diet A was the most satisfactory compared to diet B at D7 and D14 and also to diet C at D14.



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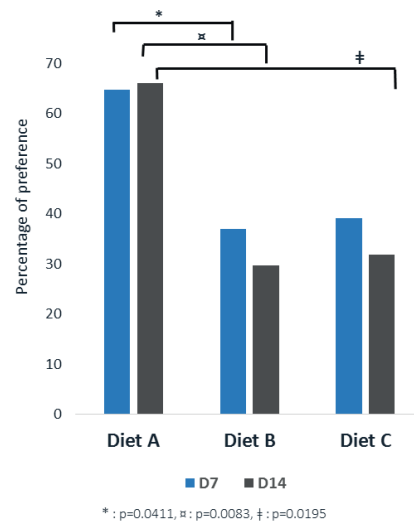


Fig. 3: Preference for the tested compared to the usual diet at D7 and D14

## Conclusion

These results demonstrated the good palatability of this new diet, even in fussy dogs. This may explain the high owner satisfaction rate.

References: 1/ Dethioux F. 800 000, 799 999, 799 998... the lethal countdown. Vets today 2013; 17. 2/ Aldrich GC, Koppel K. Pet food palatability evaluation: a review of standard assay techniques and interpretation of results with primary focus on limitations. Animals 2015; 5:43-55