

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is alerting pet owners and veterinary professionals about reports of canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs eating certain pet foods containing peas, lentils, other legume seeds, or potatoes as main ingredients.

<https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/CVMUpdates/ucm613305.htm>

Although full details are not yet known, the potential problems could be related to availability of an amino acid called taurine. It is suspected that some cases of recently diagnosed dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) may be related to taurine deficiency associated with commercial diets containing certain ingredients (such as those listed above).

These concerns were first discovered at the UC Davis Veterinary Hospital. This information from the UC Davis Nutrition Services and Tufts University Clinical Nutrition Service provides more details.

<https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/news/update-nutrition-services-concern-between-diets-and-dcm-dogs>

<http://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2018/06/a-broken-heart-risk-of-heart-disease-in-boutique-or-grain-free-diets-and-exotic-ingredients/>

At this time, if you are concerned about the link between certain diets and DCM, it is recommended that you consider switching to a diet with more standard ingredients made by a well-known reputable company with an established history of strong quality control. If you are currently feeding your dog a boutique, grain-free or exotic ingredient diet, it is recommended to monitor for any early signs of heart disease including lethargy, exercise intolerance, coughing or fainting. Your DePorre Veterinary Hospital veterinarian can also assess your dog for other signs of heart disease including a heart murmur and abnormal heart rhythm, and formulate a plan for further testing if necessary.

The following links can be helpful in assessing which pet food is best for your dog.

<https://vet.osu.edu/vmc/companion/our-services/nutrition-support-service/myths-and-misconceptions-surrounding-pet-foods>

<https://talkspetfood.aafco.org/readinglabels>