

Boosting animal health



By Dr Liza Schneider*

NUTRACEUTICALS are non-drug substances derived from food and have therapeutic benefits. They are generally safe to use and may be used as a primary therapy or as an adjunct to conventional medicines.

Certain nutraceuticals help to reduce the amount of drug needed to manage disease conditions such as degenerative joint disease and congestive heart failure. They can also be of great assistance in supporting recovery and boosting vitality.

Unfortunately, many supplements made for humans

and animals are made according to food grade quality as opposed to pharmaceutical standard and don't actually contain what their label claims. Additionally, many products have limited bioavailability which has a substantial impact on their efficacy.

Thankfully, there are some superb products available in the veterinary market today, many of which have undergone scientific trials and proven their value in case studies.

Vitamins, minerals and fatty acids often have a synergistic effect. By supplementing an animal's diet with a good-quality broad spectrum supplement, providing optimal amounts of important micronutrients helps to ensure optimum health, vitality, immune status, growth, fertility, muscle and tendon strength, and recovery.

For convalescing animals, adding such a supplement ►



* Dr Liza Schneider is director of award-winning Holistic Vets in Tauranga and president of the New Zealand Vet Association's Complementary Veterinary Medicine Branch. Go to www.drLiza.co.nz for more information.

► usually assists with improved healing, increased strength and vitality, promotion of weight gain and increased appetite.

Glucosamine

Glucosamine is an important building block for cartilage production and plays a role in lubricating and cushioning joints. It can be an invaluable aid in treating osteoarthritis, both to decrease the dose of anti-inflammatories needed in some cases as well as to slow the progression of the disease.

A special form, N-acetyl-D-glucosamine, has been shown to help protect the internal lining of the bladder wall and can be a useful supplement to use with feline idiopathic cystitis.

MSM (Methyl-Sulphonyl Methane)

A derivative of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), MSM has anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties, improves joint flexibility as well as elasticity of connective tissue making it a useful supplement for muscle and tendon repair.

Antioxidants

As part of normal metabolism, free radicals are produced by oxidative stress and if not neutralised by antioxidants they can cause cellular damage which ultimately leads to disease.

In debilitated, sick, malnourished and older animals the free radical load may be excessive as they have lower amounts of antioxidants available to help combat free radical damage.

In conditions such as sepsis and inflammatory conditions, free radicals are produced at a greater rate which may be overwhelming and delay healing.

There are a number of well-known and relatively commonly used antioxidants such as vitamin C, vitamin E, carotenoids and s-adenosylmethionine (SAmE), and those that are less

well known in the veterinary field such as co-enzyme Q10 and proanthocyanidins.

Antioxidants work in synergy and have shown to provide immune support, aid in the management of dogs suffering from cognitive dysfunction, assist animals with cardiac disease and can help to improve anaemia associated with kidney disease.

Provided as supplementation in optimal amounts, antioxidants help to provide powerful general support for debilitated animals and assist with the restoration and maintenance of health.

SAmE

An antioxidant with therapeutic properties assisting liver disorders, osteoarthritis and cognitive dysfunction.

Proanthocyanidins

Proanthocyanidins are a subclass of bioflavonoids found in blue and purple berries, and extracts of grapeseed and pine bark (enzogenol). They are useful in vet practice for many disease conditions including osteoarthritis, infections, heart disease and saddle thrombus in cats. I have found them invaluable as a safe and reliable adjunct therapy for neurological problems, allergies, auto-immune conditions, neoplasia and simply to support vitality and general energy levels in compromised animals.

Co-enzyme Q10

A naturally occurring antioxidant which assists with energy production in cells, co-enzyme Q10 supplementation has shown improved cardiac function in animals with cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure. It has shown



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improved survival times in acute renal failure, improved exercise tolerance and, in some cases, been of benefit to some cats with inflammatory mouth disease.

Omega 3 fatty acids

These important nutrients have specific anti-inflammatory properties and are a very versatile therapeutic aid for a number of health conditions.

Omega 3s can help to reduce fatty plaques within blood vessels and dogs displaying symptoms of heart failure have enhanced longevity and quality of life following omega 3 fatty acid therapy.

Supplementation helps to maintain normal kidney function and can help to slow the progression of renal failure. They can be a useful supplement for animals with osteoarthritis and very important for the development of the brain before birth and during early development.

B-vitamin complex

Vitamin Bs are fundamental to energy production, metabolism, growth and maintenance of healthy tissues. They are a useful aid in helping to reduce nervousness and general stress, treating muscle fatigue, supporting appetite as well as treating debility, anorexia and anemia.

Milk thistle

Milk thistle has been used as a natural remedy to support liver health for more than 2000 years. As an antioxidant, it aids in the detoxification process and helps to assist and promote liver health.

NB: For best results, these supplements should be used under veterinary guidance. 🐾

LOVE THEM DEEPLY

nourish them fully

Omega-3 fatty acids are nutrients that are important for optimal pet health. Because omega-3s cannot be produced by the body, dogs and cats must obtain them through diet or supplementation.

Daily supplementation with omega-3 fatty acids is a proactive way to help support optimal health throughout your pet's life.

Omega-3s for Dogs & Cats

- ✓ Joint Health
- ✓ Heart Health
- ✓ Healthy Skin & Coat



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For vision care and healthier optics.



Lutein

A protective photo nutrient required in high concentration to protect it from free radical damage. Reduces risk of developing eye related macular degeneration.



Astaxanthin

Trials suggest that Astaxanthin reduces inflammation, supports eye health & diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration and lowers eye strain & fatigue.



Bone & Joint

For healthy bones & joints.

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