

Serum haptoglobin is reduced in obese dogs submitted to a weight loss program and fed a sc-FOS-enriched diet

R. Ricci¹, I. Jeusette², JM. Godeau³, B.Contiero¹, M. Diez⁴

¹Department of Animal Science, University of Padova, Italy

²Affinity Petcare, Barcelona, Spain,

³Department of Functional Sciences - Biochemistry Unit, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, ULg, Belgium

⁴Department of Animal Production, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, ULg, Belgium

Obesity promotes a low-grade inflammatory state in humans and obese dogs have showed decreased inflammatory markers when submitted to weight loss. This study investigated the effect of two levels of short chain-fructooligosaccharides (sc-FOS) included in an energy-restricted diet on weight loss, biochemical parameters and serum haptoglobin concentration in experimental dogs enrolled in a weight loss program (WLP). Dietary supplement of sc-FOS has already been shown effective in lowering the post-prandial glucose, urea and triglycerides concentration in healthy dogs and in decreasing insulin resistance in obese ones (Respondek et al., 2008).

Twelve obese Beagle dogs were randomized into two groups and submitted to a WLP with a dry energy-restricted diet (as fed: 34 % crude protein, 9.5 % fat and 12.0 kJ ME/g). Control group (C) received 1% DM sc-FOS, as included in the diet by the manufacturer, whereas test group (T) received 3% DM. Body weight, BCS and blood collection were carried out before and after treatment and monthly to measure total plasma cholesterol, triglycerides, free fatty acids, glucose and insulin; serum leptin and haptoglobin were measured only before and after WLP.

The two groups showed no differences in BW and blood parameters before treatment. When values before and after treatment were compared, significant reductions were observed for all parameters with the exception of FFA and glucose. However, when these reductions were compared between C and T groups, significant differences were detected only for haptoglobin (T before vs T after: 1545 vs 605 mg/L, $P=0.03$; C before vs C after: 1635 vs 1400 mg/L, $P=n.s.$). Moreover, positive correlations between haptoglobin and cholesterol, triglycerides and glucose were observed before WLP.

Results suggest that excess body fat in dogs may trigger an inflammatory condition which is strictly associated to the raise of obesity-related biochemical parameters; however, it ameliorates when 3%DM sc-FOS is included in the energy-restricted diet.

Respondek F., Swanson K. S., Belsito K. R., Vester B. M., Wagner A., Istasse L., Diez M. Short-chain fructooligosaccharides influence insulin sensitivity and gene expression of fat tissue in obese dogs. *J Nutr.*, 2008, 138(9):1712-8.