

Palatability of a Flavoured Oral Paste, Containing Prebiotics, Probiotics, and Postbiotics in Dogs and Cats: A Monadic Test in Seventy-Four Animals

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Abstract : Diarrhoea is a common disorder in both cats and dogs. Recent guidelines highlight the importance of gut microbiota and the use of strategies such as prebiotics, probiotics, postbiotics, and fecal transplants for modulating the microbiota. The objective of this study was to evaluate the palatability of a flavoured oral paste containing prebiotics (brewer's yeast products, fructo-oligosaccharide), probiotics (*Enterococcus faecium*), and postbiotics (lactic ferment products), in dogs and cats. Material and methods: Healthy adult animals (cats and dogs) from various breeds received the tested product (Ultradiar® Biotic, MP Labo, France) at the recommended dosage over a small quantity of kibbles: animals less than 2 kg bodyweight received 2 ml per day, animals between 2 and 6 kg received 4 ml per day, animals between 6 and 12 kg received 5 ml per day, animals between 12 and 30 kg received 8 ml per day, and animals weighing more than 30 kg received 10 ml per day. For each animal, the investigator noted the intake (immediate in less than 2 seconds, delayed after 2 seconds, no intake), the consumption of the product (no consumption, partial consumption $\leq 5\%$, $< 50\%$, $50\% \leq x < 95\%$, $\geq 95\%$, total consumption). Acceptability was defined as the percentage of dogs having consumed more than 95% of the product. Results: Thirty-seven dogs were included: 19 small size, 11 medium size, and 7 large size dogs. Thirty-six dogs (97%) took the product, with 65% showing immediate intake. Only one small-sized dog did not take the product. Among the 36 dogs who took the product, 19 (53%) had a complete consumption, 13 (36%) consumed more than 95% of the product, 3 dogs consumed more than 50% (and less than 95%), and one dog consumed less than 50%. The acceptability rate was 86%. Thirty-seven cats were included. Twenty-eight cats (76%) took the product, with 8% showing immediate intake. Among those 28 cats, 7 (25%) consumed more than 95% of the product, 13 (47%) consumed more than 50% (and less than 95%), 6 consumed less than 50% and 2 cats consumed less than 5%. Conclusion: The flavoured oral paste, Ultradiar® Biotic, was well-accepted by both dogs and cats, with higher acceptability observed in dogs compared to cats. These results suggest that the product is palatable and can be usefully administered to support gastrointestinal health in companion animals. Further studies should explore the clinical benefits of this formulation in managing gastrointestinal disorders.

Keywords : cat, dog, palatability, prebiotic, probiotic

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