# Nutraceuticals Found in Red Meat: Applications for Petfood

Prof Jacquie Rand
Deanne Whitworth
Centre for Companion Animal Health

**School of Veterinary Science**The University of Queensland



### Nutraceuticals

- Defined: non-drug substances that are extracted or produced in a purified form
- Used to improve health and well-being
- When used as adjuncts to conventional drug therapies, have the potential to decrease the dose which may decrease adverse side-effects of drugs

# Nutraceuticals & Pets

- Average lifespan of pets has increased, predisposing them to old-age diseases
- Human-animal relationship is important the majority of pet owners regard their pet as part of the family
- Increasingly, people are looking to nutraceuticals to improve their health
- Consequently, they expect that nutraceuticals will also be available for their pets

#### ■ Osteoarthritis:

- · 20% of dogs over 1 year old
- · 90% of cats over 12 years old
- Causes joint pain, reduced activity, lameness
- Common cause of euthanasia in medium to large breed dogs when they can no longer get up from hip disease

### Common Pet Diseases & Red Meat Nutraceuticals: Osteoarthritis

#### Nutraceuticals used:

- Glucosamine
- Chondroitin sulphate
- Pentosan polysulphate

#### ■ Actions:

- Aid in cartilage formation
- Decrease inflammation
- Retard progression of osteoarthritis

#### Obesity:

- ~40% of dogs
- ~40% of cats
- · Shortens life of dogs by at least 15%
- Reduces life in cats

#### Obesity:

 Causes diabetes mellitus (cats), impaired immune function, skin disease, difficulty breathing, increased blood pressure, joint degeneration, increased anaesthetic deaths, urinary disease ...

# Common Pet Diseases & Red Meat Nutraceuticals: Obesity

- Nutraceutical used:
  - L-carnitine
- Action:
  - Promotes the maintenance of lean body mass
  - Prevents lipid accumulation in cats undergoing rapid weight loss
    - Facilitates safe weight loss in cats

#### ■ Cancer:

- 50% of dogs older than 10 years
- · Frequency in cats unknown but common

- · Nutraceutical used:
- Omega-3 fatty acids
  - □ Source: fish and fish oil
  - □ Action: Decrease the activity of enzymes (metalloproteases) - involved in tumour growth and metastasis
  - □ Decrease the vascular supply to solid tumours
  - □ Promotes programmed death of tumour cells (apoptosis)
  - □ Inhibit tumor growth and metastasise

#### ■ Chronic Renal Disease:

- · 1% of dogs
- · 1.6% of cats under 15 years
- · 15% of cats over 15 years
- · Nutraceutical used:
  - Omega-3 fatty acids
- · Source: fish and fish oil

- Canine Aging and Cognitive Dysfunction:
  - · 50% of dogs over 11 years
  - Destructive behaviour, increased vocalisation, decreased social interactions, loss of housetraining
  - · Nutraceutical used:
    - Omega-3 fatty acids
  - · Source: fish and fish oil

- Allergic Dermatitis:
  - · 15 20% of all dog consultations
  - · 15 20% of all cat consultations
  - · Nutraceutical used:
    - Omega-3 fatty acids
  - · Source: fish and fish oil

### Red Meat Nutraceuticals Most Commonly Found in Premium Pet Foods

- Glucosamine
- Chondroitin sulphate
- Pentosan polysulphate
- L-carnitine
- Taurine
- Arginine

### Red Meat Nutraceuticals Most Commonly Found in Premium Pet Foods

- Taurine
  - · Essential amino acid
  - Required for normal function of:
    - Heart
    - Retina
    - Reproductive system
- Added to all feline diets & in some canine diets (eg for heart and urinary disease)
- Deficiency causes blindness and heart disease (dilated cardiomyopathy)

### Red Meat Nutraceuticals Most Commonly Found in Premium Pet Foods

- Arginine:
  - · Essential amino acid
  - Required for the elimination of toxic nitrogenous wastes from the body
- Added to diets for liver disease in cats

- Glucosamine & chondroitin sulphate:
  - · Cattle and sheep trachea

- Pentosan polysulphate:
  - · Produced synthetically

- L-carnitine:
  - · Skeletal muscle:
    - ■Sheep: 168mg/100g tissue
    - Cattle: 62mg/100g tissue
  - · Heart
    - ■Sheep: 59mg/100g tissue
    - Cattle: 19mg/100g tissue

#### ■ Taurine:

· Cattle gall: 15g/L of gall

#### Arginine:

- · Skeletal muscle:
  - ■Sheep: 1.8mg/100g tissue
  - Cattle: 1.4mg/100g tissue
  - ■Pig: 1.2mg/100g tissue
- · Liver, heart, thymus, kidney:
  - Sheep, cattle: ~1.0mg/100g tissue

- Glucosamine & chondroitin sulphate:
  - Poultry meal
  - · Mussel shells

- Pentosan polysulphate:
  - Produced synthetically

#### ■ L-carnitine:

- Produced synthetically
- Red meat used to produce the food
- Naturally-derived, purified product

#### ■ Taurine:

- Produced synthetically
- Red meat used to produce the food
- Naturally-derived, purified product

#### ■ Arginine:

 Red meat is source (sheep skeletal muscle)

# Regulatory Requirements for the Inclusion of Nutraceuticals in Pet Foods

- Australia:
  - Regulated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)
  - Registration is only required if a claim is made to: "prevent, treat, alleviate or cure" a disease

# Regulatory Requirements for the Inclusion of Nutraceuticals in Pet Foods

#### ■ USA:

- Regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Also by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO)
- Pet food ingredients do not require registration so long as they do not make therapeutic claims

 Increasingly, people are using nutraceuticals as adjuncts to conventional medical therapies and expect the same options for their pets

Pets are living longer and are thus more likely to develop old-age diseases such as osteoarthritis and obesity

The most common canine and feline diseases for which red meat-derived nutraceuticals are used are osteoarthritis and obesity

 Many common diseases of cats and dogs are not managed using nutraceuticals

- The most common red meat-derived nutraceuticals in pet foods are:
  - · Glucosamine
  - Chondroitin sulphate
  - · Pentosan polysulphate
  - · L-carnitine
  - · Taurine
  - Arginine

- Nutraceuticals in pet foods are derived from:
  - Red meat used in the manufacture of the food
  - Synthetic production
  - · Poultry meal

Yields from red meat and by-products are potentially high

Nutraceuticals included in pet foods do not require government registration in Australia or the USA, provided that no therapeutic claim to "prevent, treat, alleviate or cure" a disease is made.

### Conclusions

- The nutraceutical & bioactive area has great opportunities to develop
- Opportunities to increase production from red meat of commonly used nutraceuticals
- Opportunities to identify novel nutraceuticals and bioactives not currently used for pets

### Conclusions

- Opportunities to identify novel nutraceuticals and bioactives not currently used for pets
  - Greatest opportunity but more costly to develop
  - Requires identification of potential nutraceuticals & bioactives from work in other species
  - □ Requires trials to demonstrate safety and clinical benefit (usually costly \$100-350K/year)

# Questions? The University Oueensland

Centre for Companion Animal Health School of Veterinary Science The University of Queensland