

TAURINE TESTING



If your dog has been on a grain-free food and you're concerned about the recent alerts from the FDA, we're offering taurine testing at a reduced cost.

\$165 per pet (normally \$270)

Shipping bulk samples directly to UC Davis Amino Acid Lab to save on client costs.

Call for a technician appointment for a blood draw between 10am and 5pm any week day. Samples will be shipped overnight every other Thursday (or when we have 10 samples to ship). Results should be available within 2 weeks.

Phone: 703-777-6350 Email: drderbin@towneanimal.com

5 Steps If Your Dog's Been on Grain-Free Food

1

Read the FDA Alert. Then read the Davis update. Certain boutique diets may be associated with dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). Pet foods of concern are grain-free, have exotic proteins, or have legumes and/or potatoes as main ingredients. We don't yet know why.

2

Talk to your vet about testing. Testing for taurine involves an easy blood draw. Samples should be sent directly to UC Davis. Guidelines are online. Test before you change foods for accurate results.

3

Figure out your food plan. Don't supplement taurine unless advised to by your vet. Each pet has different needs. Your vet can help! There are many appropriate diets available.

4

If there's a problem, get an echo. Pets with signs of heart failure should have an echocardiogram with a cardiologist. If your pet has low taurine and normal heart function, decide with your vet the appropriate next steps. Coughing, exercise intolerance, and difficulty breathing may need to be addressed immediately. Many pets recover with appropriate treatment.

5

Report data to the FDA. The FDA reporting portal is available online. This data is essential for our understanding of what is happening.

****According to veterinary practice laws, you must be a current client/patient at Towne for our doctors to offer medical advice.**

Not a TAC client? We can draw and submit the sample, and you can review the results with your veterinarian. He or she can recommend an appropriate diet or follow-up testing.