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VETERINARY MEDICINE

Dr. Josh Stern is studying the connection between Canine DCM and certain trendy dog foods.

Dear [Informal Salutation],

Dr. Josh Stern, a veterinary cardiologist and geneticist, noticed an alarming trend in golden retriever patients at our hospital. The dogs were developing a dangerous form of heart disease called Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM). As a researcher into the genetics of cardiac disease in purebred dogs, Stern knew well that DCM can be genetic—just not in golden retrievers.

DCM is a disease of the heart muscle that can cause congestive heart failure or sudden cardiac death. While some dog breeds are genetically predisposed to having DCM, any dog can develop it if their food doesn't contain sufficient Taurine, an essential amino acid.

Stephanie Ryan DVM '21 with Mango.

Stern noticed all the golden retrievers suffering from DCM were being fed similar brands of food that were grain free, or derived their protein from non-traditional sources. In collaboration with our nutrition department, Dr. Stern is studying if this is the cause of this spike in heart disease.

In the meantime, to prevent dogs across the country from acquiring diet-related DCM, Stern helped to alert the veterinary cardiology community and the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) who has since put out advisories warning pet owners about similar foods.

At the Center for Companion Animal Health (CCAH) our researchers have performed many nutrition studies that monitor and test the safety of commercially available foods. We invest in this research because it is essential to helping animals like yours maintain long healthy lives. That is why I ask for your gift today.

You could help us develop medical breakthroughs that create a healthier, happier world for the animals we love so much. Join us and support the incredible, dedicated researchers at the Center for Companion Animal Health today.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Kent, MAS, DVM, DACVIM, DACVR
Director, Center for Companion Animal Health

P.S. Our dedicated faculty researchers help ensure the food our pets eat is truly healthy for them. Please support this important work today at **give.ucdavis.edu/go/CCAHFall.** Or, if you are considering a legacy gift to help animals, please call (530) 752-7024.

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