Effects of Dietary Fibre on Nutrient Digestibility in Obese Dogs.

Diez, M., Jeusette, I., Tonglet, C., and Istasse, L.
Animal Nutrition, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liege, Belgium

The objective was to evaluate the influence of 4 dietary fibres (DF) on nutrient digestibility coefficients in obese Beagles. Diets containing 10% total DF on dry matter basis as guar gum -GG-, cellulose -CEL-, sugar beet fibre -SBF- and a blend of guar gum and cellulose -BL- were compared with a control diet (CO). The BL diet was formulate to mimic the insoluble-to-soluble fibre ratio of SBF. Each diet was offered for 4 weeks in a 5 X 5 Latin square design; faeces were collected in metabolism cages during 7 days.

Apparent dry matter and organic matter digestibility coefficients were decreased by DF as compared with CO (p <0.01 for GG, CEL, SBF and BL). Protein and ether extract digestibilities were reduced respectively with GG, SBF and BL (p <0.01) and with GG and BL (p <0.01). Apparent digestibility of total DF, characterised by large individual changes, was 69.4% with CO and was decreased with CEL, SBF and BL (p <0.01). Apparent digestibility of soluble DF was high (97%) and was decreased with SBF (p <0.05) while digestibility of insoluble fibre was largely variable (7 to 38%) and not different between treatments. Comparisons between SBF and BL revealed similar effects on dry matter, organic matter, total and insoluble DF digestibility coefficients.