Colostrum and FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement

Nutritional Modulation of Immunity

Since 70-80% of our immune cells are found in our gastrointestinal tract, it stands to reason that a healthy GI tract translates to a healthier immune system. Colostrum and FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplements have proven benefits both inside and outside the GI tract of cats and dogs. Nestlé Purina researchers have discovered that colostrum and FortiFlora® can positively influence the immune response in dogs and cats to antigenic stimulation, potentially decreasing susceptibility to infection.

Colostrum in Dogs

In a study of 24 Alaskan sled dogs, fed either a control diet or the same diet with colostrum, the colostrum group had higher and more sustained antibody levels after vaccination with Canine Distemper Virus (CDV). Fecal IgA levels were also higher in the colostrum fed group, indicating enhanced local immune status.¹

FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement in Dogs

In a 52 week study, puppies (starting at 8 weeks) were given FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement or a placebo. The FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement group showed higher and more sustained antibody response than the placebo², similar to what was seen with the colostrum. The improved antibody response could be relevant for improving protective immune responses against infections during the critical weaning period and onwards. The immune benefits are in addition to the number of studies showing FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement’s benefits to stool quality and enhancement of existing normal flora (see FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement monograph for more information).

Impact of Oral Probiotics on Systemic Immune Function

Puppies treated with probiotic E. faecium SF68 exhibited enhanced immune function, as demonstrated by increased:

A) serum total IgG; B) antigen-specific (anti-distemper, CDV) IgA; and, C) antigen-specific IgG. (*p <0.05)

(Source: Benyacoup, et al, 2003)
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**Colostrum in Cats**
Kittens were also given a control diet or diet with colostrum, and were exposed to “stress” (blood sample collection). The kittens with colostrum had more fecal IgA than the control kittens, and had a more stable microbial population, an indicator of GI health.¹

**FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement in Cats**
FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement’s effect on the immune system in cats is suggested with the decreased incidence of herpes viral conjunctivitis in cats on FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement compared to control.⁴

**Summary**
Weaning is a stressful time, leaving puppies and kittens vulnerable to a compromised immune system. Immune stimulation with FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement and colostrum can help bridge the “immunity gap” between mother’s antibody protection and protection from vaccination. In addition to enhancing protection from vaccination, immune response to pathogens may be enhanced. Purina research has uncovered the immune benefits of colostrum and FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement to puppies and kittens. Purina’s Quality Assurance gives you peace of mind that the products you are recommending for your patients are safe, effective and palatable.

Colostrum is found in the Purina Veterinary Diets® essential care™ dry puppy and kitten formulas, as well as the Canine and Feline dry EN Gastroenteric® formulas.

FortiFlora® Nutritional Supplement is sold as a flavourful probiotic supplement that can be given daily.

**References:**
2. Bényouf et al. Supplementation of Food with Enterococcus faecium (SF68) stimulates Immune Functions in Young Dogs. J Nutr 2003;133:1158-1162
3. Gore A Satyarat J. Immune enhancement in cats fed diets supplemented with bovine colostrum 2010

To learn more, visit www.PurinaVeterinaryDiets.ca or call 1-866-884-VETS(8387), 8:30 am to 4:30 pm EST.