

Delibones Barkery

HEALTHY DOG TREATS™



At Delibones Barkery we are proud to create wholesome scrumptious cookies for every deserving dog. We invite you to choose from our assorted gourmet range of **Delibones™**, **FruitiBones™**, **NuttiBones™**, & **VegiBones™**.

We never compromise on quality, and use only human-grade, natural ingredients free from added artificial colourings, flavourings or preservatives.

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Cuisine *de* Critters



By Phil Tripp (Pet Chef)

Sometimes it's frightening to see stories on the TV about pet foods. A recent Today Tonight show showed how many 'fresh meat' pet food packs have high levels of sulfur dioxide preservatives which can cause major problems by destroying thiamine. This can lead to dangerous or even fatal consequences. Though sensationalised, it still points to the need to be careful of what you feed your pets.

With the high quality of veterinary care and nutrition information or products available, pets are living longer and thus are at higher risk of developing old age diseases such as arthritis, kidney disease, joint problems, diabetes and even canine Alzheimers. Symptoms of these problems include bad breath, sleeping more, increased urination and drinking, plus changes in weight or behaviour. These could also be present for a number of other reasons.

We recently had to deal with this issue and now understand a lot more about senior nutrition and why there are a number of factors to consider in what to feed the older pet. It's why dog food manufacturers make different foods for senior pets with special formulations to slow down aging and help prevent the development of old-age diseases. For dogs older than seven years (equivalent to 50 human years), their diet should contain higher levels of antioxidants, high-quality protein, essential fatty acids, vitamins, minerals, and optimum levels of fibre. It should also be enriched with glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate to help support healthy joints and cartilage.

We've been diligent in feeding the best, freshest and varied foods to our pets with an eye to making sure we wash fruits and vegetables to remove pesticides, fertilisers or bacteria and also learning as much as we can about nutritional needs which vary from species to species and even within types of birds or dogs, as an example.

We've also been lucky that we haven't had any problems with our dogs and birds, even though we fed our dogs grapes, onions and macadamia nuts (fortunately not much!) before we discovered the error of our ways. And we've never fed chocolate which can also be toxic.

With the birds, we learned to be careful about feeding stonefruit pips which can contain naturally occurring arsenic compounds as well as apple pips. Each of the birds (Eclectus and Ringneck) have different dietary needs as is the case with nectar eating or carrion cleaners. But with our Dalmatians, we have had to be particularly diligent due to their propensity to have kidney problems as hereditary faults. And as they age, we have made sure they had nutrition to fight joint problems or arthritis.

We've always fed them canned sardines in oil and other fish with regularity which is what our vet attributes to our older girl Jerri (now 11) having the bones and joints of a dog around nine years. When Jerri started getting a little creaky last winter and had a hobble from a collision with a gravestone, Lisa started giving her a glucosamine and chondroitin powder after consulting with the vet. We've also tried nutraceuticals like Sascha's Blend joint formula, Joint Guard, Goochy's and MyBeau liquid multivitamin and mineral supplement (along with ground up mussel shells), and a blend of garlic powder and brewers yeast which is high in B vitamins and repels fleas.

And we've always made sure they have had lots of water, including topping up their food bowls when we've fed them kibbles or other food with water above the level of food. It forces them to drink and we believe keeps their kidneys flowing. We've also avoided foods which have oxalic acid in them—rhubarb, spinach, beet, chard and even starfruit and tea leaves are high in it. These can lead to crystals in the urine and kidney or bladderstones.

So imagine our surprise when we found ourselves in Texas, Jerri in a lovely boarding kennel back home in Sydney and a call late at night notified us that the observant staff had found crystals in her urine after seeing her having frequent short urinations. They had captured a specimen of her urine on the run (I could picture them chasing her with a cup!) and referred it to a vet. We had to make a long distance decision of what vet to have her seen by, what procedures to authorise (x-ray? extraction of urine by needle? More tests? Liver problem test? CAT Scan or MRI?) to determine both the seriousness and cause of the problem.

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- Premium dry dog food that's certified organic.
- A superb combination of quality ingredients, grown naturally, to result in a highly nutritious formulation.



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