

## PROSPECTS OF USE OF NUTRIENT FIBER, APPLYING DIFFERENT FEEDING MANNERS, TO REDUCE OBESITY IN DOGS

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**Abstract.** Obesity is the most prevalent nutritional disorder encountered in company animals. Problems related with obesity are the higher incidence of pathological morbidity and mortality of dogs. The dog, having 15% or more overweight clinically is called obese. Nowadays 25–40% of dogs around the world carries overweight or obese. Nutritional and physical activity interventions have been common strategies. More attention has been given to the nutrient and energy composition of diets. Strategies to maximize dog health such as ‘lite’ and therapeutic diets have been available for years; the rates of obesity are increasing in companion animals day by day (Heuberger, Wakshlag, 2011).

The aim of this study is to define the effect of diet containing nutrient fiber on the assimilation of nutrients, healthiness and weight reduction in small breed of dogs. Three analogical groups were selected for the experiment. Dogs in I group were fed once per day with free access to food in the morning, II group – twice per day: in the morning and in the evening with free access to food; III group – twice per day: in the morning and in the evening with restricted time of feeding.

Moister content in feces in dogs fed in the morning and in the evening with restricted time of feeding was the lowest – 60,06 per cent or 2,35 per cent less in comparison with faeces of dogs fed once per day ( $p<0.001$ ). Feeding twice per day with restricted time of feeding or with free access to food had a positive impact in assimilation of nutrients: crude protein ( $p<0.001$ ), crude fat ( $p<0.001$ ), crude fiber ( $p<0.001$ ) were absorbed better in comparison with absorption in dogs fed once per day.

Weight loss in 180 days trial period in dogs fed once per day was 1210 g, in dogs fed twice per day with free access to food – 1270 g, in dogs with restricted feeding time – 1570 g. Chest and waist measurements in all periods of trial were smaller in the groups where dogs were fed twice per day with restricted time of feeding or with free access to food.

**Keywords:** dog, diet, nutrient fiber, digestibility, obesity