

KEYWORDS

Cats – digestive tolerance – faecal consistency

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

Four adult cats (European Shorthair, 2 spayed females and 2 castrated males), with an average body weight of 4.7 ± 0.5 kg were included in the study. They were individually housed and offered once meal a day. All cats had the same basal diet containing 30% CP and 11% fat. Amounts of feed were calculated to cover maintenance requirements of cats and adjusted to maintain a constant body weight throughout the study. Before the trial, cats were fed with the same control diet. Then, four different diets were tested: control, recommended dosage of scFOS, 5 and 10 times the recommended dosage of scFOS in feed. The study was carried out as a 4x4 latin square with 7-day test periods separated by 7-day wash-out periods. The tolerance was assessed by the qualitative and quantitative observation of cats' faeces.

RESULTS

		Control	1 (1.5%)	5 (4.6%)	10 (7.0%)	Statistical
Weight of faeces	g/day	57 ± 7	50 ± 8	56 ± 11	64 ± 17	NS
Faecal score	1 to 5 scale	3.3 ± 0.3	3.2 ± 0.4	3.5 ± 0.4	3.6 ± 0.4	NS
Faecal moisture	%	66.2 ± 2.7	65.6 ± 2.6	68.6 ± 2.6	70.6 ± 3.7	NS
faeces/g feed	g	0.76 ± 0.08	0.75 ± 0.04	0.83 ± 0.08	0.94 ± 0.18	NS

The usual recommendation of scFOS inclusion in feed for cats is between 0.5 and 1%. Analysis of scFOS contents in tested feed was 1.5% for the recommended dosage, 4.6% for the five times higher dosage and 7.0% for the ten times higher dosage.

The inclusion of scFOS in the basal diet of dogs did not alter or in a very slight manner the faecal characteristics (total weight and score). Consistency was assessed from 1 (very hard and crumbly) to 5. As already observed in dogs, the addition of supplemental scFOS in the diet slightly increased the faecal moisture without altering the consistency of faeces.

CONCLUSION

The inclusion of scFOS up to 7%, in the diet of adult cats does not induce any visible digestive intolerance.

Ref : P.04.02.C (France)

Nguyen, Experimental trial at the Veterinary College of Nantes.