WEBINAR

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Nutrition in Canine Cardiac Disease: Evidence, Misconceptions and Clinical Practice

25 NOVEMBER 2026, 18.00 (CET)

REGISTER

Can nutrition meaningfully influence the development and management of cardiac disease in dogs? This webinar will offer a practical, evidence-based look at nutrition in canine cardiac disease, with special focus on the debate around grain-free pet foods and their alleged link to dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). Dr. med. vet. Stefanie Handl will critically examine the available scientific evidence, address persistent misconceptions surrounding grain-free diets, and outline the nutritional factors of greatest clinical relevance in dogs with cardiac disease, including energy intake, protein supply, mineral management, taurine, carnitine, and other relevant dietary considerations across different stages of disease.

The session will provide practical answers to questions such as:

- What are the most common misconceptions about grain-free diets in the veterinary community?
- Do current studies support a causal relationship between grain-free, legume-rich diets and DCM in dogs?
- Which nutritional factors are most relevant in the prevention and dietary management of canine cardiac disease?
- How should energy, protein, sodium, potassium, and other key nutrients be approached in early versus advanced stages of disease?
- When is supplementation with taurine, carnitine, omega-3 fatty acids, or other nutrients clinically justified?

MEET THE SPEAKER



DR. MED. VET. STEFANIE HANDL

Graduated in Veterinary Medicine from Vetmeduni Vienna in 2002 and completed her doctoral degree in Animal Nutrition in 2005. In 2011, she became a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (ECVCN). She is co-author of numerous scientific publications and is regularly involved in lectures and professional publications in the field of veterinary nutrition.