



**Pet Food Institute Statement
Dilated Cardiomyopathy
June 25, 2020**

The Pet Food Institute (PFI) and our members, who make 98% of U.S. pet food and treats, are committed to the health of pets and take seriously the responsibility to make safe, complete and balanced food for dogs and cats. PFI member nutritionists, veterinarians and product safety specialists have been closely studying this issue to better understand whether there is a relationship between dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and diet. Drawing on our review of both historic and recent scientific analyses and published papers, PFI members are devoting thousands of hours to improve our understanding of DCM and its causes, all with the goal of advancing pet well-being.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has stated and PFI agrees that this is a complex issue with many components requiring scientific evaluation. Tens of millions of dogs enjoy grain-free diets in the United States and the number of submitted DCM reports suggest that, if diet is a factor, it may be among several elements involved, including dog physiology and genetics. PFI welcomes the continued dialogue among our pet food maker members, veterinarians, and ingredient suppliers to advance the understanding of DCM and its causes.

Dana Brooks
President and CEO
PFI