Nutritional Supplements for Active Dogs

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

It was a beautiful fall day in the Northwoods and all the trees were showing their vivid gold, red, and orange colors. A perfect day to go hunting in the woods – which is exactly what Brad and Harley, a four-year old Weimaraner, intended to do. Their favorite time to spend together is fall hunting season. Harley eagerly waits for her favorite words – "Let's go hunting!" then runs to the truck and jumps with excitement. Since Brad and Harley spend so much time together, he is very sensitive to Harley's behavior and mood and is able to tell when she's not quite herself. One particular day, she appeared to be eating well and seemed fine in the morning, but as the day progressed, Brad thought that something wasn't quite right. There wasn't a dramatic difference in her behavior, but enough to concern Brad. Perhaps she was just getting old? Maybe she was ill?

The following day, Brad called the clinic and we asked them to come in. Once they got into the exam room, Brad voiced his concerns while Harley was being examined. To rule out illness, some tests were run and they revealed that Harley was healthy. Brad, relieved, then questioned why there was a change in her behavior if Harley wasn't sick. Since Harley was an extremely active pet, she most likely needed additional energy and nutrition than what she was getting from her food.

We suggested gradually switching from his mid-grade dog food to premium food. We also suggested giving her a daily supplement in order to provide additional vitamins and minerals her body needs to support and maintain her high-energy lifestyle. Brad agreed, and made a follow-up appointment for two weeks later to check on the progress. When they returned for their follow-up, we were pleased that Harley was back to her old ways and Brad was satisfied that his hunting buddy is getting the nutritional requirements she needs.

Our Doctors' Recommendations

#1 Signature Series Dog Food provides nutritionally superior ingredients PLUS vitamins and minerals. Bring out the best in your best friend.

#2 Lifestage Select® Adult provides ALL the necessary vitamins and minerals for optimum health. Formulated especially for high-energy, active dogs.

#3 Berrier Joint & Hip Chewables - these chewable rewards deliver tart cherry, glucosamine, and chondroitin for support of your dog's joint and hip health.

To ensure your pet is always in top form, feed a healthy, quality food with the right levels of nutrients to build and maintain a healthy immune system, skin, and haircoat. Supplement when necessary according to your pet's health, your pet's age/life stage, and any life events (such as pregnancy) that may require a boost/change in nutrition. As always, consult your veterinarian if you have questions about supplements, and whether they would be appropriate and beneficial for your pet.

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*