

A new water additive (VET AQUADENT™ FR3SH™), containing the FR3SH™ technology from natural origin, is as efficient as a water additive containing chlorhexidine to reduce bad breath in dogs and cats.

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Introduction

Bad breath in pets is a common complaint from pet owners and can have different origins (oral mainly)¹. There are different ways to address bad breath and water additives, as part of daily home dental care, are one of them.

VET AQUADENT™ FR3SH™ is a water additive that contains no chlorhexidine or xylitol. It contains the FR3SH™ technology instead, which is based on ingredients from natural origin (pomegranate, erythritol and inulin) to target the causes of bad breath and to freshen breath.

In this study, the efficiency of VET AQUADENT™ FR3SH™ solution to improve pet's breath, as assessed by the owners, was tested on healthy pets and compared to a water additive containing chlorhexidine (CHX).

1. Culham N, Rawlings JM. Oral malodor and its relevance to periodontal disease in the dog. *J Vet Dent.* 1998;15:165-168



Material and methods

Animals and products:

The study was done in Australia with owners' dogs and cats receiving either:
- VET AQUADENT™ FR3SH™ (FR3SH, 24 dogs and 27 cats)
- or a water additive containing xylitol and chlorhexidine (CHX, 25 dogs and 19 cats), instead of the FR3SH™ technology, during 14 days.

The amount of solution was given according to the manufacturer's instructions (1% dilution in drinking water).

Assessments:

A questionnaire was filled twice daily by the owner to assess:

- the strength of breath odor (on a 1-7 scale)
- the pleasantness of pet's breath (on a 1-7 scale)
- product's easiness of use (on a 1-7 scale)

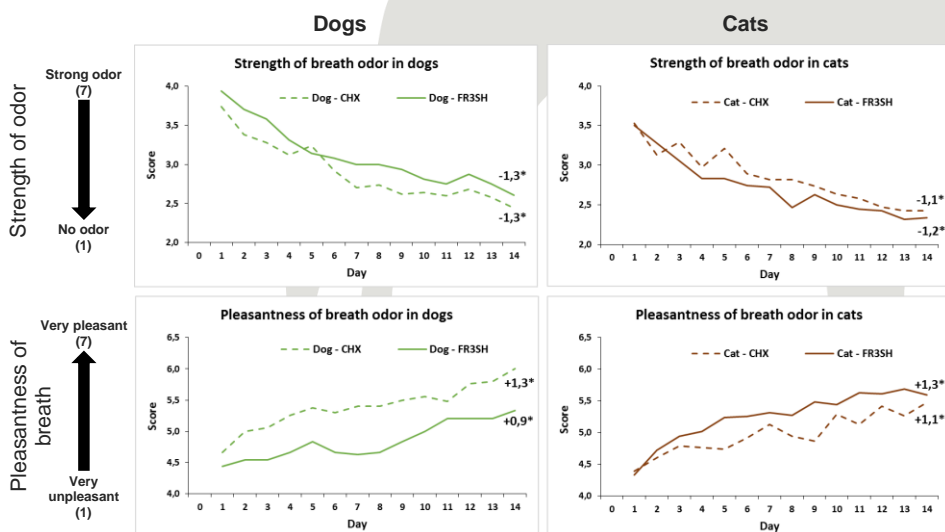
The owners' perception of the water consumed by their pet, compared to the usual amount, was also asked daily and at the end of the study.

Their perception of the product's features, purchasing and recommendation intentions were evaluated at the end of the study.

Statistics:

A Wilcoxon signed-rank test was performed to compare the data at day 1 and day 14 in each group and a Mann-Whitney test was used to compare the evolution between groups. Difference was significant if $p < 0.05$.

Results



- Around 80% of owners rated their pet's breath smell as good or excellent, with both water additives
- No significant difference between products for the owner's perception of the amount of water drunk by the pet, compared to the usual amount (≥ 70% thought it was as usual).
- No significant difference between products for the easiness of use (score of 6.7/7)
- No significant difference between products for the recommendation rate (≥ 70% owners would recommend the product)

Figure: Strength and pleasantness of dogs' and cats' breath odor, as evaluated by the owner (score 1-7), when receiving daily VET AQUADENT™ FR3SH™ solution (FR3SH – plain lines) or a water additive with CHX (dotted lines) in their drinking water.

A significant improvement of breath was seen with both formula with no significant difference between the water additives.

Conclusion

VET AQUADENT™ FR3SH™ solution is as efficient as a water additive containing chlorhexidine to reduce pet's bad breath, is easy to use and is recommended by more than 70% of pet owners



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