

Optimal Nutrition: *The Missing Health Link for Animals*

Millions of people give great care and attention to their personal health and nutritional well being, while ignoring some important members of their family: the pets! Believing that animal health is fully taken care of by regular visits to the vet and high quality pet food, pet owners nationwide may be missing a crucial part of the health equation. Many leading animal health experts point to lifetime nutrient malabsorption as the leading cause and hastener of many chronic ailments in the animal community.

"From domestic to wild, animals of all types have at least one thing in common with humans: Optimal nutrition provides optimal health," says Nancy A. Bozeman, D.V.M., M.S., B.S, of The Animal Doctor Clinic, Arlington, TX. According to Dr. Bozeman, obtaining a high level of nutrition is more elusive than one might think. "While 'gourmet' or 'fortified' pet food may be a hopeful solution," she says, "A big bag of synthetic supplements may not be the way to optimize an animal's health. Regardless of the treatments an animal may need, if you don't have superior nutrition you can't have superior results."

The Solution: A More Natural Diet

Even if an animal seems healthy, it may not be receiving the proper levels of what acclaimed animal therapist, author and lecturer, Carol Bennett, B.T., N.A., calls the "Three Basic Biological Requirements." In her recently published book, "Black & White of An Empty Harvest, Examining the Gray Area of Nutrition," she outlines the need for returning to nature as we look for solutions to failing health - both human and animal.

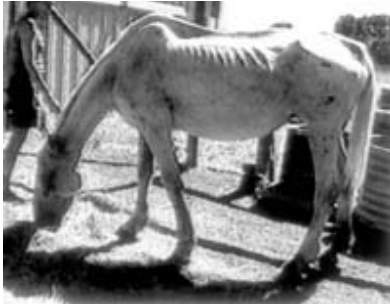
The three basic biological requirements that Bennett describes are: **probiotics**, such as *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, which support the balance of natural 'friendly' bacteria present in the body of all organisms; **food enzymes**, such as protease, amylase and lipase, which aid in breaking down food into bioavailable forms; and-most important- **minerals and trace minerals** in a highly assimilable form. "Animals and humans can live on diets that are deficient in these properties - and even appear relatively healthy. However, if we take the same deficient bodies and support the 'three basic biological requirements,' we can achieve vibrant health."

The Solution in Action

Imagine seeing a herd of mustangs, expecting to see strong, muscular physiques, shining coats and boundless, frolicking energy, only to find a set of horses that were more bone than muscle, with thickly matted winter coats still hanging on, even though the summer heat was over 100 degrees. This is exactly what Carol Bennett encountered when she was summoned to help with 140 mustangs rescued from the brink of death.

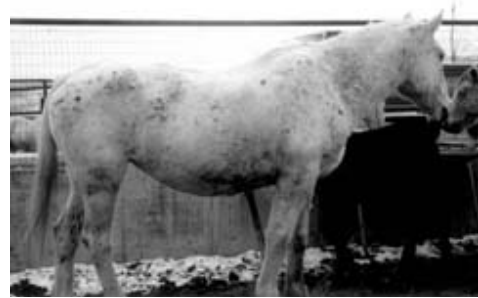
"A mare and her foal could barely stand, their ribs were thinly covered by their thin skin and the mare was unable to produce milk," says Bennett. "It was just too much to bear. I knew that these horses needed a high level of nutrition, immediately." Calling the endeavor the "Mustang Project," Bennett worked with a group of veterinarians to rescue the horses from otherwise certain death due to starvation and malnutrition.

An extensive and exhaustive routine of treatment included supporting the overall health of the animals with probiotics, enzymes, vitamins and minerals. "While many of the horses needed specific medical treatment," says Bennett, "The 22 that received an additional element, Super Blue Green® Algae (SBGA), which contains a broad spectrum of bioavailable micronutrients, recovered the most quickly and completely." Super Blue Green Algae is *Aphanizomenon-flos aquae*, a wild, natural algae harvested from Upper Klamath Lake in Oregon by Cell Tech International, Inc.



Before:

A malnourished mustang waits for food and care after being rescued in Fruita, CO



After:

Twelve weeks after arrival at the rescue center, the mustang has regained weight and health. Mares were able to resume nursing their foals in just a few days after starting their special nutritional regime.

"These horses' ribs became completely covered more readily than the others, their coats regained their natural sheen, their eyes became bright and clear, and they regained their energy and vigor quite quickly," says Bennett. "My only regret for the whole project is that all 140 horses didn't get to eat SBGA for the three months of their rehabilitation."

Budgetary constraints did not allow for the inclusion of SBGA for all of the horses, however all of them received intensive natural and medical treatments and all 140 have fully recovered. Bennett reported from the field in December 2000, "All of the horses have been placed in new homes - 134 of them went to a 1,000 acre private range in Montana and the other six were placed in permanent foster care."

Bring the Solution Home: Improve Your Animal's Health

Bennett has not only helped the mustangs using therapy based on fulfilling their biological needs and using SBGA, but has been able to help a range of domestic animals as well as exotic animals including leopards, tigers and lions. Ironically, her therapy using this overall health approach began at home with her 13-year-old dog, "Blue." She was suffering from old age and the onset of cancer.

With natural dietary treatment that included SBGA, Bennett says, "Blue's symptoms began to completely reverse. She went from having no energy, dull and shedding hair, cracked footpads, blackened teeth and bad breath to having lots of energy, shiny hair, soft and smooth footpads, whiter teeth and fresh-smelling breath."

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