Effects of *Ascophyllum nodosum* contained in supplement on oral health index in dogs and cats

Jerzy Gawor DVM PhD FAVD¹, Katarzyna Jodkowska DVM² and Michal Jank DVM PhD²

¹Klinika Weterynaryjna Arka Krakow, Poland, ²Warsaw Univ. of Life Sciences, Faculty of Vet. Med., Poland

**Background and aim:** The alga *A. nodosum* grows in the North Atlantic sea. Recent studies suggest that the alga could influence oral health of dogs and cats. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the clinical effects of dietary supplement containing *A. nodosum* on oral health of dogs and cats after routine dental cleaning procedure.

**Study design:** Experimental group consisted of n=24 cats and dogs and control group consisted of n=12 dogs and cats. All animals were orally cleaned before the start of the study (Day 0). The study period was 6 weeks and the primary measured factor was the Oral Health Index (OHI) composed of effects on plaque, dental deposits, periodontal status and mandibular lymph node status. Oral health examination was done according to the procedure developed for the purpose of Usmiech Pupilia (Pet’s smile) preventive action in which all the investigated parameters were scored for 0 to 2 points. Examination was done on Day 0 and after 2 weeks, 4 weeks and 6 weeks.

**Product:** Investigated supplement (ProDen PlaqueOff®) contains *A. nodosum* powder and during the study was sprinkled on the regular feed of the animals. The control group did not receive any supplementation.

**Results:** The study groups showed a deterioration of oral health after routine oral health procedure during the 6 weeks of the study period and the speed of this deterioration was significantly slower in the group of animals receiving PlaqueOff (p=0.017 for dogs and p=0.006 for cats).

**Conclusion:** ProDen PlaqueOff® supplementation of dogs and cats diet significantly reduced the speed of oral health deterioration after routine dental cleaning procedure.