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**Evaluation of palatability of a Metronidazole-based oral suspension in dogs when poured on the food and at different stages of shelf-life**

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Metronidazole is the treatment of choice for Giardiasis in dogs. Compared to tablets, oral suspensions, when palatable, can be more convenient and allow a more precise dosing. The objective of this study was to assess the palatability of a new metronidazole-based oral suspension for dogs (Eradia™, Virbac) when poured on pet food and at different stages of the shelf-life. Groups of 30 dogs received 25 mg/kg of the suspension, twice a day for 5 days, poured on 30 g of kibbles. Four different samples of the product were tested, depending on shelf-life: the first sample was used after production (T0), two other samples had been kept for 6 months before use, either at 25°C (T6M/25°C) or at 40°C (T6M/40°C) and the last one had been kept for 15 months at 25°C (T15M/25°C). Intake and consumption of the kibbles with product (or without product as a reference) were evaluated in each dog. All dogs took the kibbles with the products, independently of the batch used (100% intake). In terms of consumption, 90% of dogs totally consumed the kibbles poured with the batches T0 or T15M/25°C and 86.7% and 80% consumed the kibbles with the batches T6M/25°C and T6M/40°C, respectively. The rest of the dogs consumed the kibbles partially. As a control, 100% of dogs took and consumed the 30g kibbles without product. Therefore, this metronidazole-based oral suspension (Eradia™, Virbac) was very well accepted by dogs when poured of the food.

**Biography**

Céline Nicolas graduated in Veterinary Medicine and as a PhD from the University of Nantes (France). She then worked as a Post-doctoral fellow and Research Assistant at the University of Bristol (UK) for 5 years and at the University of Nice (France) for 2 years. She has published a dozen articles in reputed journals and joined Virbac Medical department in 2016.

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