

WELACTIN®

NATURAL OMEGA-3 SUPPLEMENT FOR DOGS AND CATS

WHAT IS *WELACTIN*?

Welactin is a rich source of omega-3 fatty acids derived from salmon and other cold water fish developed to help support your pet's skin and coat health and overall wellness.

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WHAT ARE OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS?

Specific fatty acids known as "omega-3 fatty acids" are the "good" fatty acids that you may have read about for human health benefits. Humans have been encouraged to eat larger amounts of certain fish, which are high in the omega-3 fatty acids docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA).

HOW CAN *WELACTIN* HELP MY PET?

Welactin provides levels of EPA and DHA to help support skin and coat health. *Welactin* can also help support other organs and systems in the body and in this way can benefit your pet's overall wellness.

The skin and coat have been shown to benefit from administration of omega-3 fatty acids.¹⁻³ Long-term administration is ideal as the outer layer of skin cells continually "turns over" (sloughs off and is replaced by other cells).

As in people, the omega-3 fatty acids are important for our pets' heart health. Specifically, omega-3 fatty acids support a normal heart rhythm.⁴⁻¹⁰ Omega-3 fatty acids support many other organ systems in the body, too, providing important benefits as your pet ages. Omega-3 fatty acids have been shown to protect kidney function,¹¹⁻¹⁵ which is especially important to older animals who are more prone to problems with kidney function. They also support the body's immune system,¹⁶⁻¹⁹ again beneficial because as animals age, immune function may decrease. A study in overweight cats showed beneficial effects of omega-3 fatty acids on long-term blood glucose levels.²⁰

DHA in particular has a function in many organ systems. DHA is a major component of cell membranes. It affects fluidity and stability of cell membranes,²¹⁻²³ which means it has a key effect on everyday function of all of the cells in the body. It is necessary for early development of the brain and retina²¹⁻²⁶ and has been shown to be very important later in life as well in protecting brain cells;^{27,28} a continual supply is needed as DHA is gradually broken down and eliminated.²⁹ This importance to the nervous system has been demonstrated in studies which showed that DHA supplementation has beneficial effects on memory and learning³⁰⁻³⁴ and on vision.^{25,26,34,35} Another study showed that dogs with compromised retinal function had lower levels of DHA in the bloodstream; therefore, supplementing with DHA may be helpful.²⁴

Administering DHA specifically rather than oils that contain precursor fatty acids to DHA may be important as some studies have shown that cats and dogs do not readily use other fatty acids to make DHA in the body.^{24,26,36-38}

As demonstrated above, *Welactin* has far-reaching effects throughout the body and can help support the overall wellness of your pet.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT *WELACTIN* IS ABSORBED BY MY PET?

The omega-3 fatty acids in *Welactin* have been shown in published research to be absorbed in cats and dogs.^{39,40}

WHAT CHANGES SHOULD I EXPECT TO SEE IN MY PET WITH *WELACTIN*?

While many of *Welactin's* important functions are at work inside your pet's body, changes that you may notice are an improvement in your pet's general appearance, activity level, attitude, appetite, and alertness.

HOW DO I GIVE *WELACTIN*?

Please follow the administration instructions found on the label. In most cases, *Welactin* is administered long-term for continuing benefits.

ARE ANY SIDE EFFECTS SEEN IN ANIMALS GIVEN *WELACTIN*?

There are no known interactions or side effects with administration of *Welactin*. Rarely, side effects, including vomiting and diarrhea, itching, and lethargy, have been reported with other fish oil supplementation.⁴¹ If your pet has a medical condition you should always consult with your veterinarian before administering any nutritional supplement or drug.

DOESN'T MY PET GET ENOUGH OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS FROM FOOD?

Omega-6 fatty acids are another type of fatty acids found in food. While the "natural diet" of animals in the past contained more balanced levels of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids,⁴² most pet foods today have higher amounts of the omega-6 fatty acids relative to the amounts of omega-3 fatty acids.⁴³ Supplementing with the omega-3 fatty acids in *Welactin* can, therefore, help re-establish the balance between these two kinds of fatty acids.

While some pet foods contain added levels of flaxseed oil, which contains alpha-linolenic acid, a precursor to the long-chain EPA and DHA, the body may not be able to use it to make the EPA and DHA that the cells need.^{24,26,36-38} A few pet foods are fortified with the specific fatty acids DHA and EPA; however, levels are often well below the amounts found in *Welactin*. In addition, even if the amounts added are initially adequate, DHA and EPA are prone to break down so that they may not be maintained in the food. *Welactin* is specifically formulated to provide optimal amounts of DHA and EPA: levels that are both beneficial and safe for your pet.

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WHY DID MY VETERINARIAN RECOMMEND *WELACTIN*® INSTEAD OF OTHER PRODUCTS?

Welactin contains levels of EPA and DHA to help support the skin and coat and to help support overall wellness. *Welactin* is easy to administer and economical to use. It is guaranteed to have the amounts of omega-3 fatty acids listed on the label. There is less oversight for supplements compared to drugs. A recent report showed one omega-3 product marketed for pet use contained labeled amounts of EPA and DHA, but contained much more of an omega-6 fatty acid than claimed.⁴⁴ Also, fish oil products can potentially turn rancid or spoil (they will then have a foul odor). In addition to containing vitamin E, which helps protect against this, *Welactin* contains other ingredients to help maintain freshness and stability. Finally, as contamination is a potential problem with any fish oil products, the fish oil in *Welactin* has been molecularly distilled to effectively remove heavy metals and other impurities. *Welactin* is manufactured under quality control standards and also tested for the presence of contaminants.

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE *WELACTIN*?

Welactin is available through your veterinarian. Your veterinarian can help you decide if *Welactin* is right for your pet and help you monitor your pet's response to it.

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