PET FOOD COMPOSITIONS

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ABSTRACT

Disclosed herein are pet food compositions. In one embodi-
ment, pet food compositions which are described comprise a
component selected from 2-deoxy-D-glucose; 5-thio-D-glu-
cose; 3-O-methylglucose; 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol; 2,5-anhy-
dro-D-mannitol; mannoheptulose; and mixtures thereof. In
yet another embodiment, pet food compositions which are
described comprise an extract of plant matter selected from
avocado, alfalfa, fig, primrose, and mixtures thereof. The pet
food compositions may be prepared by any of a variety of
processes including, but not limited to, optional processes
described herein.
PET FOOD COMPOSITIONS
CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION


FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention is directed to pet food compositions. In certain embodiments, the pet food compositions may comprise a selected carbohydrate component, or extract of plant material selected from avocado, alfalfa, fig, primrose, and mixtures thereof.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Studies have indicated that restriction of caloric intake by food deprivation slows down certain undesirable cellular processes in laboratory animals, many associated with aging and age-related diseases.


[0005] Reductions in fasting glucose and insulin levels are readily measured biomarkers of caloric restriction. Calorically restricted rodents exhibit lower fasting glucose and insulin levels, and the peak glucose and insulin levels reached during a glucose challenge are reduced in those on caloric restriction. See Kalant et al., “Effect of Diet Restriction on Glucose Metabolism and Insulin Responsiveness and Aging Rats,” Mech. Aging Dev., Vol. 46, pp. 89-104 (1988). It is also known that hyperinsulinemia is a risk factor associated with several such disease processes, including heart disease and diabetes (Balkau and Eschege, Diabetes Obes. Metab. 1 (Suppl. 1): S23-31, 1993). Reduced insulin levels and body temperature are two of the most reliable indicators of this altered metabolic profile (Masoro et al., J. Gerontol. Biol. Sci. 47:B202-B208, 1992); Koizumi et al., J. Nutr. 117: 361-367, 1987; Lane et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 93:4154-4164, 1996).

[0006] Components such as 2-deoxy-D-glucose have been described which block or inhibit certain aspects of carbohydrate metabolism and may therefore mimic the effects of caloric restriction (Rezek et al., J. Nutr. 106:143-157, 1972; U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0035071). These components exert a number of physiological effects; including reduction of body weight, decrease in plasma insulin levels, reduction of body temperature, retardation of tumor formation and growth, and elevation of circulating glucocorticoid hormone concentrations. (For a review see Roth et al., Ann. NY Acad. Sci. 928:305-315, 2001). These effects result from inhibition of carbohydrate metabolism.

[0007] However, the commercial utility of such components has been limited, particularly as practical applications had yet been identified. The present inventors herein provide compositions which may be commercially utilized and further provide processes for preparation of such compositions. In particular, it has been found that the components herein may be processed from plant matter, or otherwise provided, and then subjected to traditional pet food processing (such as, for example, extrusion or other such vigorous methods) without compromising the integrity of the component.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The present invention is directed to pet food compositions. In one embodiment, the invention is directed to pet food compositions comprising a component selected from the group consisting of 2-deoxy-D-glucose; 5-thio-D-glucose; 3-O-methylglucose; 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol; 2,5-anhydro-D-mannitol; mannoheptulose; and mixtures thereof. In yet another embodiment, the invention is directed to pet food compositions comprising an extract of plant matter selected from the group consisting of avocado, alfalfa, fig, primrose, and mixtures thereof. The pet food compositions may be prepared by any of a variety of processes including, but not limited to, optional processes described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0009] Various documents including, for example, publications and patents, are recited throughout this disclosure. All such documents are hereby incorporated by reference. The citation of any given document is not to be construed as an admission that it is prior art with respect to the present invention.

[0010] All percentages and ratios are calculated by weight unless otherwise indicated. All percentages and ratios are calculated based on the total composition unless otherwise indicated.

[0011] Referenced herein are trade names for components including various ingredients utilized in the present invention. The inventors herein do not intend to be limited by materials under a certain trade name. Equivalent materials (e.g., those obtained from a different source under a different name or reference number) to those referenced by trade name may be substituted and utilized in the descriptions herein.

[0012] In the description of the invention various embodiments or individual features are disclosed. As will be apparent to the ordinarily skilled practitioner, all combinations of such embodiments and features are possible and can result in preferred executions of the present invention.
The compositions herein may comprise, consist essentially of, or consist of any of the features or embodiments as described herein.

While various embodiments and individual features of the present invention have been illustrated and described, various other changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. As will also be apparent, all combinations of the embodiments and features taught in the foregoing disclosure are possible and can result in preferred executions of the invention.

As used herein, the term "pet" means a domestic dog or cat.

As used herein, the term "pet food composition" means a composition that is intended for ingestion by the pet. Pet food compositions may include, without limitation, nutritionally balanced compositions suitable for daily feed, as well as supplements (e.g., treats) which may or may not be nutritionally balanced.

Compositions of the Present Invention

The present invention is directed to pet food compositions. In one embodiment, the invention is directed to pet food compositions comprising a component selected from the group consisting of 2-deoxy-D-glucose; 5-thio-D-glucose; 3-O-methylglucose; 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol; 2,5-anhydro-D-mannitol; mannoheptulose; and mixtures thereof. Without intending to be limited by theory, it is believed that these components are glucose anti-metabolites. See e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0035071. In another embodiment, the components may be present in the recited compositions by virtue of a component of plant matter such as avocado, or other enriched source of mannoheptulose such as alfalfa, fig, or primrose.

The inclusion of glucose anti-metabolites as part of the pet food compositions herein are useful, for example, to alter utilization of glucose or other energy sources and to mimic metabolic effects of caloric restriction. Without intending to be limited by theory, the present use of glucose anti-metabolites to alter glucose metabolism serves to lower the metabolic rate through inhibition of glucose as an energy source on the cellular level. Judicious use of components that block the normal metabolism of cellular glucose can result in changes in physiological function that are similar to those arising from caloric restriction. Caloric restriction has been consistently shown to extend longevity in animals. See Weindruch and Walford, "The Retardation of Aging and Disease by Dietary Restriction," Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas (1988); Yu, "Modulation of Aging Processes by Dietary Restriction," Boca Raton: CRC Press (1994); and Fishbein, "Biological Effects of Dietary Restriction," Springer, N.Y. (1991).

Components which are useful herein include 2-deoxy-D-glucose, 5-thio-D-glucose, 3-O-methylglucose, anhydrosgars including 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol, 2,5-anhydro-D-glucitol, and 2,5-anhydro-D-mannitol, and mannoheptulose. Mannohexulose is preferred for use herein. Advantageously, mannoheptulose or any other component may be present in the recited compositions as a component of plant matter such as avocado, or other enriched source of mannoheptulose such as alfalfa, fig, or primrose. The plant matter may include the fruit, seed (or pit), branches, leaves, or any other portion of the relevant plant or combination thereof.

Avocado (also commonly referred to as alligator pear, aguacate, or palta) contains unusually enriched sources of mannoheptulose, as well as related sugars and other carbohydrates. Avocado is a sub-tropical evergreen tree fruit, growing most successfully in areas of California, Florida, Hawaii, Guatemala, Mexico, the West Indies, South Africa, and Asia.

Species of avocado include, for example, Persea americana and Persea nubigena, including all cultivars within these illustrative species. Cultivars may include 'Anaheim,' 'Bacon,' 'Creamlart,' 'Duke,' 'Fuerte,' 'Granter,' 'Green,' 'Hass,' 'Jim,' 'Lula,' 'Lyon,' 'Mexico,' 'Mexico Cane,' 'Murrieta Green,' 'Nabal,' 'Pinkerton,' 'Queen,' 'Puebla,' 'Red,' 'Riocon,' 'Ryan,' 'Spinks,' 'Topa Topa,' 'Whitsell,' 'Wurtz,' and 'Zutano.' The fruit of the avocado is particularly preferred for use herein, which may contain the pit or wherein the pit is removed or at least partially removed. Fruit from Persea americana is particularly preferred for use herein, as well as fruit from cultivars which produce larger fruits (e.g., about 12 ounces or more when the fruit is mature), such as 'Anaheim,' 'Creamlart,' 'Fuente,' 'Hass,' 'Lula,' 'Lyon,' 'Murrieta Green,' 'Nabal,' 'Queen,' 'Puebla,' 'Red,' 'Riocon,' 'Ryan,' 'Spinks,' 'Topa Topa,' 'Whitsell,' 'Wurtz,' and 'Zutano.' The fruit of the avocado is particularly preferred for use herein, which may contain the pit or wherein the pit is removed or at least partially removed.
semi-moist composition, wet composition, or any mixture thereof. Alternatively or additionally, the composition is a supplement, such as a gravy, drinking water, yogurt, powder, suspension, chew, treat (e.g., biscuits) or any other delivery form. [0026] Moreover, in one embodiment the pet food composition is nutritionally balanced. As used herein, the term “nutritionally balanced,” with reference to the pet food composition, means that the composition has known required nutrients to sustain life in proper amounts and proportion based on recommendations of recognized authorities in the field of pet nutrition. [0027] The compositions used herein may optionally comprise one or more further components. Other components are beneficial for inclusion in the compositions used herein, but are optional for purposes of the invention. In one embodiment, the food compositions may comprise, on a dry matter basis, from about 10% to about 90% crude protein, alternatively from about 20% to about 50% crude protein, alternatively from about 20% to about 40% crude protein, by weight of the food composition, or alternatively from about 20% to about 35% crude protein, by weight of the composition. The crude protein material may comprise vegetable proteins such as soybean, cottonseed, and peanut, or animal proteins such as casein, albumin, and meat protein. Non-limiting examples of meat protein useful herein include a protein source selected from the group consisting of beef, pork, lamb, poultry, fish, vegetable, and mixtures thereof. [0028] Furthermore, the compositions may comprise, on a dry matter basis, from about 5% to about 40% fat, alternatively from about 10% to about 35% fat, by weight of the food composition. [0029] The compositions of the present invention may further comprise a source of carbohydrate. Grains or cereals such as rice, corn, milo, sorghum, barley, wheat, and the like are illustrative sources. [0030] The compositions may also contain other materials such as dried whey and other dairy by products.

Optional Processes for Preparing the Compositions of the Present Invention

[0031] The pet food compositions may be prepared by any of a variety of processes including, but not limited to, optional processes described herein. Disclosed herein are optional processes for preparing the present inventive compositions. The ordinarily skilled artisan will understand, however, that the compositions are not limited by the following described processes. [0032] A process for preparing the present compositions may comprise:

[0033] (a) providing plant matter selected from the group consisting of avocado, alfalfa, fig, primrose, and mixtures thereof;
[0034] (b) combining the plant matter with an aqueous solution and optionally with an enzyme, further optionally with heating, to provide a digested plant mixture;
[0035] (c) optionally separating any fractions present in the digested plant mixture, if any, to provide a carbohydrate extract;
[0036] (d) concentrating the digested plant mixture to enhance the concentration of carbohydrate therein; and
[0037] (e) combining the digested plant mixture with one or more pet food composition components.

[0038] The plant matter provided in the optional processes may be avocado, alfalfa, fig, primrose, and mixtures thereof. The plant matter may be any portion or whole of the plant, such as the leaves, fruit, seed or pit, particularly at least those portions of the plant that contain elevated levels of carbohydrate such as 2-deoxy-D-glucose, 5-thio-D-glucose, 3-O-methylglucose, 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol, 2,5-anhydro-D-mannitol, or mannoheptulose. In one optional process herein, the avocado is provided, and the process may commence with whole avocado fruit, including the pit or devoi (or partially devoid) of the pit. If the plant matter which is provided contains a pit, or partial pit, the pit or portion thereof may be optionally removed prior to further processing. Alfalfa, fig, or primrose may be similarly processed.

[0039] In one optional process, production of a digested plant mixture comprises combination of the plant matter with an aqueous solution, such as water, to assist with maceration of the plant into manageable constituents. Optionally but preferably, an enzyme having cellulose or pectin activity, or any combination thereof (such as a cellulase, hemicellulase, or pectinase) is included to assist with such maceration, including to assist with dissolution and release of carbohydrates via cell wall disruption. The utility of such an enzymatic treatment may be enhanced through heating during such maceration, such as from above ambient temperature to about 120° C., or to about 100° C., or from about 60° C. to about 120° C., or from about 60° C. to about 100° C. Agitation is further preferably utilized, typically for up to about 24 hours, but dependent upon the batch under processing. In one embodiment, the pH is controlled such to preserve enzyme activity, often in the range of pH from about 4 to about 6, preferably in the range of pH from about 5 to about 6. As such, depending upon such factors as ripeness of plant matter, quality of process aqueous solution (such as water added for process, for example), and the like, amounts of acid or base may be desirable as will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0040] Optionally, to assist with deactivation of the enzymes present, heating may be increased at the time of, or after, initial heating and agitation to form the digested plant mixture. Water is optionally heated to processing temperatures prior to the addition of the plant matter. Heat may be applied by a jacketed tank where low pressure steam is utilized.

[0041] The digested plant mixture may result in fractions which may be separated in accordance with common techniques. For example, fractions present in the digested plant mixture may be separated by filtration to provide the carbohydrate extract as the resulting filtrate, with the filter cake being discarded. Other methods may include, but not be limited to, gravimetric, centrifugal, other filtrations, or combinations thereof.

[0042] The carbohydrate extract may then be concentrated, optionally utilizing at least one concentration method selected from the group consisting of heating, vacuum drying, evaporation, refractance window drying, freeze drying, spray drying, any other useful technique, or any combination of the foregoing. In one embodiment, at least one technique such as refractance window drying is used.

[0043] Once concentrated, the carbohydrate extract may be utilized in the pet food compositions of the present invention. In one embodiment herein, the present processes result in preferred yields of mannoheptulose or other carbohydrate, or carbohydrate extract, based on the starting mass of the plant
matter (e.g., avocado). In one embodiment, the yield of mannoheptulose present in the carbohydrate extract subsequent to concentration is less than about 20%, or from about 0.1% to about 10%, or from about 1% to about 7%, based on the starting mass of the plant matter. In another embodiment, the yield of the carbohydrate extract subsequent to concentration is less than about 30%, or from about 5% to about 25%, or from about 8% to about 20%, based on the starting mass of the plant matter. Of course, even higher yields may be desirable, and lower yields may also be acceptable.

EXAMPLES

0044] The following examples are provided to illustrate the invention and are not intended to limit the scope thereof in any manner.

Example 1

0045] Avocado extract containing enhanced levels of mannoheptulose is prepared in accordance with the following optional process, and utilized in pet food compositions of the present invention:

0046] Whole avocado fruit (about 900 kilograms) is provided. The fruit is split and the pits are removed, either partially or wholly, providing about 225 kilograms of pitted avocado halves. The raw avocado is charged to a disintegrator, whereupon some agitation, water (about 3000 kilograms) and CELLUBRIX (commercially available from Novozymes A/S) (about 1 liter) is further charged. The mixture is further agitated and concurrently heated to about 66°C. Upon completion of the charge, further CELLUBRIX (about 1 liter) is added, and the entire mixture is held under agitation for about 12 hours at a controlled pH of about 5.5. The temperature is then further increased to about 80°C and then held for at least about 2 hours. The resulting digested plant mixture is then filtered at 80°C to provide the carbohydrate extract as the filtrate. The carbohydrate extract is then evaporated in a simplified recirculation system at 80°C, under vacuum, to provide the carbohydrate extract having about from about 10% to about 20% solids and a pH of about 5.5. The extract is then further concentrated using a refractance window dryer to provide about 100 kilograms of the extract as a crystalline or powder (a yield of about 11% carbohydrate extract, based on the starting mass of the whole avocado fruit, which is analyzed as a yield of about 4.5% mannoheptulose, based on the starting mass of the whole avocado fruit). The extract may be used in the pet food compositions of the present invention.

Example 2

0047] Two kibble compositions having the following components at the approximate indicated amounts are prepared using methods which are standard in the art, including extrusion, and are fed to cats as a daily feed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Example 1A (Component Amount indicated as Wt %)</th>
<th>Example 1B (Component Amount indicated as Wt %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extract of Avocado</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken, Chicken By-</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>product Meal, and Fish Meal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example 3

0048] A beef-flavor gravy composition is prepared by combining the following components in a conventional manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Wt %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mannoheptulose*</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Fat</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spray-Dried Beef Particles and Broth</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xanthan Gum</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floss Seed</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamins**</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minerals</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphoric Acid</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Flavor</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mannoheptulose may be substituted with another component as described herein. **Vitamins and Minerals include: Vitamin E, beta-carotene and Vitamin A, Zinc Oxide, Ascorbic Acid, Manganese Sulfate, Copper Sulfate, Manganese Oxide, Calcium Pantothenate, Biotin, Vitamin B12, Vitamin B1, Niacin, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Folic Acid.

0049] One fluid ounce of the gravy composition is admixed with one-half cup of standard dog kibble diet daily prior to feeding to a dog. Amounts of the gravy composition are determined as desired by the guardian of the dog.

What is claimed is:

1. A pet food composition comprising:
   a component selected from the group consisting of 2-deoxy-D-glucose; 5-thio-D-glucose; 3-O-methylglucose; 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol; 2,5-anhydro-D-mannitol; mannoheptulose; and mixtures thereof; vitamin E; and beta carotene.
2. The pet food composition of claim 1 comprising mannoheptulose, vitamin E, and beta carotene.
3. The pet food composition of claim 2 and wherein the pet food composition is a kibble.
4. The pet food composition of claim 2 and wherein the pet food composition is nutritionally balanced.
5. The pet food composition of claim 1 and wherein the pet food composition is a gravy.
6. The pet food composition of claim 5 and wherein the pet food composition is mixed with kibbles.
7. The pet food composition of claim 1 and wherein the pet food composition comprises less than about 5% mannoheptulose.

8. The pet food composition of claim 1 and wherein said pet food composition is selected from the group consisting of a dry composition, a semi-moist composition, a wet composition, a supplement, and mixtures thereof.

9. The pet food composition of claim 1 and wherein the pet food composition is selected from the group consisting of a kibble, treat, biscuit, and a supplement.

10. The pet food composition of claim 1 and wherein the pet food composition comprises a supplement.

11. The pet food composition of claim 10 and wherein the supplement is selected from the group consisting of a gravy, drinking water, yogurt, powder, suspension, chew, treat, biscuit, and mixtures thereof.

12. The pet food composition of claim 1 and wherein the pet food composition comprises less than about 2% mannoheptulose.

13. The pet food composition of claim 12 and wherein the pet food composition comprises a nutritionally balanced kibble.

14. The pet food composition of claim 12 and wherein the pet food composition comprises a supplement.

15. The pet food composition of claim 14 and wherein the supplement is selected from the group consisting of a gravy, drinking water, yogurt, powder, suspension, chew, treat, biscuit, and mixtures thereof.

16. The pet food composition of claim 1 and further comprising from about 10% to about 90%, on a dry matter basis, crude protein.

17. The pet food composition of claim 1 and further comprising a source of carbohydrates.

18. The pet food composition of claim 1 and further comprising a source of fat.

19. A pet food composition comprising mannoheptulose, vitamin E, and beta carotene.

20. The pet food composition of claim 19 and wherein the pet food composition is a nutritionally balanced kibble.