



## Banbury-Bedrock Bull Terriers

### A WORD ON DIET:

The following excerpts are from a poster I saw in my vet's office. Since they state in point what I have been preaching for years about diet additives (natural and chemical), I thought I'd pass them along.

"Many caring and informed pet owners mistakenly believe that pet foods which meet or exceed established minimum requirements will be healthy and beneficial for their pet. This is not always true.

"Scientific research has proven that certain nutrients, when consumed in excess, can cause progressive organ failure and eventually death. For instance, too much phosphorus, protein and sodium can lead to kidney failure in the canine.

"Excessive calcium in the pet's diet stimulates the production of gastrin, a hormone which alters stomach contractions and causes thickening of the stomach wall, reducing the stomach's ability to empty. These effects can lead to bloat. Excess calcium also binds other essential minerals such as phosphorus, zinc and copper which will lead to serious health problems.

"Protein, phosphorus, calcium and magnesium naturally pass through the bladder on their way to the outside, but can precipitate in the bladder and form urinary stones. Protein and minerals should be restricted in the diet to reduce their presence in the urine and thus prevent the stones from forming.

"Excess protein, phosphorus and sodium can, over a prolonged period, damage the kidneys. Too much protein causes nitrogen waste which the kidneys must work harder to excrete. Excess sodium leads to hypertension and further renal damage.

"Zinc is necessary for a healthy skin and coat. Excessive calcium intake reduces a dog's ability to absorb zinc and increases the risk of skin lesions and a poor hair coat.

"Inadequate amounts of fat can lead to essential fatty acid deficiency which impairs wound healing, causes dry, lack-luster hair coat and scaly skin.

"Calcium, phosphorus and other minerals such as magnesium are required for bones to grow properly, maintain strength and produce red blood cells. A magnesium deficiency will lead to skeletal abnormalities. Excess phosphorus causes bone demineralization. A lack calcium will cause osteoporosis. This is a delicate balance however, because too much calcium can cause magnesium deficiency mentioned above."

These excerpts are all taken from a Hill's Science Diet poster. While we do not endorse one brand over another, we urge caution and moderation in the foodstuffs you feed your Bull Terrier. More is not always better, and a well formulated basic kibble will go a long way toward a healthier, longer life for your dog.