



### ***Vitamin D3 and Zinc Improvements to LabDiet® Swine Diets***

LabDiet® understands the importance of providing you a consistent product; thus, nutrient and ingredient changes are rarely made with our products. However, we believe it is also important to continuously evaluate our diets and make sure that we are safely meeting the animals' requirements, following industry recommendations as well as being compliant with international standards and regulations that are required for importing diets.

In order to meet all three of the above, we will be making some very minor adjustments in regards to vitamin D and zinc to a couple of our swine diets.

#### **Vitamin D3**

Vitamin D<sub>3</sub> (cholecalciferol or D-activated animal sterol) is a fundamental fat soluble vitamin that plays a role in calcium and phosphorous metabolism, bone calcification and immunity and is added to all standard LabDiet® products to ensure the animals' requirements are met.

A few LabDiet® swine diets were introduced in the 1970's and 80's when stabilized forms of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> were not available. As a result, higher concentrations of that vitamin were added to account for losses that occur during manufacturing and storage. With advances in that technology and the introduction of stabilized vitamins, we now use a more dependable source of vitamin D<sub>3</sub>. In addition, the recent publication of the Nutrient Requirements of Swine (NRC, 2012) provides detailed information regarding the levels of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> that should be used in these diets. As a result, we will reduce the overall added levels of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> to our swine diets effective August 15, 2016.

Below you will find a list of diets manufactured on and after August 15, 2016 will contain a reduced concentration of vitamin D<sub>3</sub>.

LabDiet® Product	Former vitamin D <sub>3</sub> level, IU/gm	New vitamin D <sub>3</sub> level, IU/gm
5080	2.2	1.5
5081/5L0U	4.4	1.5
5082	4.4	1.5

## Zinc

Zinc plays an important role in protein, carbohydrate and lipid metabolism. It also plays a role in cell growth and division and immunity. After a review of the 2012 NRC, we have decided to also increase the Zn content of our LabDiet 5080 and 5L0U from 92 ppm Zn to 140 ppm Zn to support the growth requirements of piglets in the 3-10 kg body weight range.

LabDiet® Product	Former zinc level, mg/kg	New zinc level, mg/kg
5080	92.0	140.0

No issues in regards to vitamin D<sub>3</sub> or zinc have ever been reported to us; however, we feel it is important to remain current with the scientific literature and the recommendations of the NRC.

We understand such changes can be a challenge to your facility and/or research program but feel these changes were necessary to ensure we continue to provide our customers with the highest quality diets possible. We do not anticipate these changes affecting palatability or appearance of the diet or growth or reproductive performance of the animals. The changes will be effective starting August 15, 2016. Diet specification sheets and tags will be updated as soon as possible to reflect these changes. Please bear with us as we update these sources of ingredient information.

For additional questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@testdiet.com](mailto:info@testdiet.com). A nutritionist will be readily available to assist you.

Sincerely,

PMI LabDiet®