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## **Safety and efficacy of a preparation of *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCIMB 41636, *Lactobacillus plantarum* NCIMB 41638 and *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* NCIMB 41640 as a technological feed additive for dogs**

### **EFSA Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP)**

#### **Abstract**

The additive is an equal mix of strains of three species of *Lactobacillus* (*Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactobacillus fermentum* and *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*). It is a technological additive intended to act as an acidity regulator, reducing the pH of either pasteurised milk or an oat-based product by fermentation. The resulting ferment is intended as a food for dogs. The three bacterial species are considered by the European Food Safety Authority to be suitable for the qualified presumption of safety approach to safety assessment. The identity of the three strains has been clearly established and no antibiotic resistance of concern were detected. Consequently, the use of the bacterial strains is presumed safe for dogs. The Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed cannot conclude on the irritancy of the additive to skin and eyes or on its dermal sensitisation. Given the proteinaceous nature of the active agents, the additive is considered a skin sensitiser. Studies were provided with both intended substrates which clearly demonstrate the ability of the additive strains to grow and to reduce substrate pH to a level inhibitory to other microorganisms. The resulting dog food is shown to remain of good microbiological quality when stored under refrigeration for periods up to nine weeks.

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**Keywords:** *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, technological additive, safety, efficacy, dogs

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## Summary

Following a request from the European Commission, the Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP) was asked to deliver a scientific opinion on a preparation of *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCIMB 41636, *Lactobacillus plantarum* NCIMB 41638 and *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* NCIMB 41640.

The product is a technological additive intended to act as an acidity regulator, reducing the pH of either pasteurised milk or an oat-based product by fermentation. The resulting ferment is intended as a food for dogs. The three bacterial species are considered by the European Food Safety Authority to be suitable for the qualified presumption of safety approach to safety assessment.

As the identity of the three strains of *Lactobacillus* forming the additive have been established and no antibiotic resistance of concern detected, following the qualified presumption of safety approach to safety assessment, the use of these strains is presumed safe for dogs.

The FEEDAP Panel cannot conclude on the irritancy of the additive to skin and eyes or on its dermal sensitisation. Given the proteinaceous nature of the active agents, the additive is considered a skin sensitiser.

Addition of the additive to pasteurised milk or to an oat-based product results in an acidification contributing to the preservation of the resulting food intended for dogs in the range of the recommended doses.