

I adopted Italian greyhound Bella when she was one year old. She was always a picky eater and had lots of tummy gurgling and diarrhea every few weeks. We tried every food, including prescription foods from the vet, with the same results. Bella would eat well for a week or so then start refusing her food. I had to hand-feed her many mornings to get her to eat anything at all. That pattern continued on and off for 3 years.

In December of 2012, Bella was diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease. Most of her symptoms responded to medication, but we could not find a commercial food that she could tolerate. Enter Susan Lauten and Pet Nutrition Consulting. Susan went over Bella's medical and food history with a fine tooth comb. She came up with an initial diet to encourage Bella to eat, that was easy for me to prepare and Bella loved it, following me around after the first feeding begging for more. Susan was in constant communication with me, making sure that everything was going well and answering all of my questions. Ultimately Susan came up with a very simple, low-fat diet that Bella has been eating well for some time now. She has filled out to a healthy weight and is full of energy.

A month ago, I found out that the commercial dog food that my other Italian greyhound, Louie, has been eating with great results was changing formulas. Louie also has inflammatory bowel disease, so a limited ingredient dog food is very important for him. The new formula adds many new ingredients that Louie cannot tolerate. Susan searched through all of the commercial foods and made many suggestions although Louie is not technically a client. She has continued to consult me on effective ways to transition Louie to something new food without causing a flare in his IBD.

The feeling that I have gotten when working with Susan is more that of making a new friend, who cares about my babies as much as I do, rather than consulting with a doctor with a limited amount of time to spend with a patient. It's a great feeling!

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