

Pet food composition for treating helicobacter species in pets

The present invention relates to the use of an isolated strain of lactic bacteria for the preparation of a food composition intended for the prophylaxis or treatment of disorders related to infection by *Helicobacter*-like-organisms in pets. The invention also relates to pet food composition prepared thereof.

Background of the invention

It is known that in humans, infection with the pathogenic *Helicobacter pylori* can cause gastritis, and lead to ulcerative disease and gastric tumors. The methods of treatment are numerous. It has been shown previously in EP 577903 (Nestlé) that lactic acid bacteria are able to inhibit *Helicobacter pylori* both *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

Domestic carnivores such as dogs and cats are virtually all infected with other species of gastric *Helicobacters*. Most of them cannot be cultured *in vitro*, but morphologically resemble *H. heilmannii*. *H. felis* was also isolated from cat gastric mucosa and, recently, two new *Helicobacter* species, named *H. bizzozeronii* and *H. salomonis*, were isolated from dogs. However, the only morphological analysis does not allow to discriminate between these *Helicobacter* species and are grouped under the denomination of "Gastric *Helicobacter* like organisms" (GHLOs).

GHLOs colonize the antrum and/or the corpus of pets while *H. pylori* colonization mainly takes place in the corpus. Colonizing GHLOs organisms are located deep in the gastric fundic glands and sometimes are found actually within gastric parietal cell canaliculi as well as in the pits and gastric mucus, compared to *H. pylori* which is known as a non invasive bacteria. (Dunn et al, 1997 : "Hp are located in the mucus adherent to the surface epithelium and are often found deep within the crypts"...))

The contamination of cat and dog stomach by *Helicobacter* species is considered as an important risk factor to develop mild to moderate gastritis. The inflammation observed is usually less severe than the one occurring in human infected with *H. pylori*. More severe lesions such as stomach ulcers, lymphomas and cancers can be observed but the pathogenicity of GHLOs is far from being clarified.

Nevertheless, controlling the infection by GHLOs in cat and dog to a low level is recognized by most veterinarians as a benefit. Since it is not a fully recognized disease requiring drug therapy, a food product containing an active ingredient capable of minimizing GHLO infection in cats and dogs is mostly required.

Summary of the invention

Thus, the present invention relates to the use of at least one strain of lactic acid bacteria and/ or its metabolites or a medium fermented by at least one lactic acid bacteria that have been isolated and selected for its ability to display a strong anti-Helicobacter bactericidal activity *in vitro*, for the preparation of a composition intended for the prophylaxis or the treatment of disorders related to GHLOs infection in pets.

In a preferred embodiment, metabolites produced by the isolated strain or a fermented medium by said lactic acid bacteria, or subfractions of cultured medium fermented by the isolated strain of lactic acid bacteria are used.

The lactic acid bacteria strain may be selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuterii*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus animalis*, *Lactobacillus ruminis*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus rahmnosus*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Bifidobacterium sp.*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*.

In a preferred embodiment the lactic bacteria strain is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* NCC 533 (CNCM-I 1225), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2581 (CNCM I-2448), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2592 (CNCM I-2450), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2613 (CNCM I-2452), *Lactobacillus paracasei* NCC 2461 (CNCM-I 2116), *Lactobacillus animalis* NCC 2603 (CNCM I-2451), *Lactobacillus rahmnosus* NCC 2583 (CNCM I-2449), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* NCC 2628 (CNCM I-2453), *Bifidobacterium sp.* NCC 2627, *Bifidobacterium sp.* NCC 2657, *Bifidobacterium lactis* (ATCC 27536).

Another objet relates to a method for the treatment or for the prophylaxis of disorders related to GHLOs infection in pets, which comprises administering to a pet a composition containing at least one strain of lactic acid bacteria and /or

its metabolites or a medium fermented by at least one lactic acid bacteria that have been isolated and selected for its ability to display a strong anti-*Helicobacter* bactericidal activity *in vitro*.

5 A further object is to provide a pet food composition containing at least an isolated strain of lactic acid bacteria and /or its metabolites or a medium fermented by at least one lactic bacteria having the above traits, associated with an ingestible support or a pharmaceutical matrix.

10 This pet food composition is able to decrease GHLO infection in cats and dogs so that the GHLOs load and the urease activity are reduced of at least 0,5 grade in the fundus and of at least 0,5 grade in the antrum.

15 The effect of the composition on chronic gastritis was also evaluated by cytological examination of biopsy on thin sections. It can induce a regression of chronic fundic gastritis, with an average regression of the grade of gastric inflammation (graded from 0 to 3) of at least 0.5.

20 In another embodiment, this pet food composition may induce a significant reduction of breath odors which are correlated with the level of infection by GHLOs.

Detailed description of the invention

25 Within the following description, the term "GHLOs" defines the "Gastric *Helicobacter*-like-organisms". Species of *Helicobacter* such as *Helicobacter felis*, *H. heilmannii*, *H. bizzozeroni* and *H. salomonis*, for example, which have been shown to colonize the gastric mucosa in pets, are grouped under this denomination.

30 Moreover, we include within the terms "GHLOs disorders", all disorders which may affect directly the gastro intestinal tract of pets, but also secondary disorders such as bad breath symptoms, for example.

35 Finally, "NCC" designates Nestlé Culture Collection (Nestlé Research Center, Vers-chez-les-Blanc, Lausanne, Switzerland).

With respect to the first object of the present invention, the use of a at least one lactic acid bacteria strain and/or its metabolites or a medium fermented

by at least one strain of lactic acid bacteria that is able to display a strong anti-*Helicobacter* bactericidal activity *in vitro*, for the preparation of a composition intended for the prophylaxis or the treatment of disorders related to GHLOs infection in pets, is concerned.

These strains have been selected among lactic bacteria strains with regard to their technological and physiological parameters and in particular for their good growth characteristics, at least 5×10^8 bacteria /ml, preferably 10^6 - 10^{10} bact/ml, most preferably 10^9 - 10^{10} bact/ml and their ability to display a strong anti-*Helicobacter* bactericidal activity *in vitro*.

In a preferred embodiment the lactic acid bacteria strain may be selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuterii*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus animalis*, *Lactobacillus ruminis*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus rahmnosus*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Bifidobacterium sp.*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*.

The lactic bacteria strain is preferably selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* NCC 533 (CNCM-I 1225), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2581 (CNCM I-2448), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2592 (CNCM I-2450), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2613 (CNCM I-2452), *Lactobacillus paracasei* NCC 2461 (CNCM-I 2116), *Lactobacillus animalis* NCC 2603 (CNCM I-2451), *Lactobacillus rahmnosus* NCC 2583 (CNCM I-2449), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* NCC 2628 (CNCM I-2453), *Bifidobacterium sp.* NCC 2627, *Bifidobacterium sp.* NCC 2657, *Bifidobacterium lactis* (ATCC 27536).

Among the various strains selected in accordance with the present invention, the following strains were deposited by way of example under the Budapest Treaty at the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes (CNCM), Institut Pasteur, 28 rue du Docteur Roux, 75724 Paris Cedex 15, France, *Lactobacillus johnsonii* (NCC 533) on the 30.06.92 under the reference CNCM I-1225, *Lactobacillus paracasei* (NCC 2461) on the 12.01.99 under the reference CNCM I-2116 and *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2581, NCC 2592, NCC 2613, *Lactobacillus animalis* NCC 2603, *Lactobacillus rahmnosus* NCC 2583, *Lactobacillus acidophilus* NCC 2628 on the 19.04.00 under the references (CNCM I-2448), (CNCM I-2450), (CNCM I-2452) (CNCM I-2451), (CNCM I-2449), (CNCM I-2453), respectively. The strain of *Bifidobacterium lactis* (ATCC27536) is provided by Hansen (Chr. Hansen A/S, 10-12 Boege Alle, P.O. Box 407, DK-2970 Hoersholm, Danemark).

BIOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SELECTED STRAINS

Lactobacillus johnsonii CNCM I-1225

- Gram positive microorganism, non-motile, non-sporing
- 5 - Fairly short and thick rodlets
- Microaerophilic microorganism with homofermentative metabolism, production of L (+) and D (-) lactic acid.
- Catalase (-), production of CO₂ (-), hydrolysis of arginine (-)
- Fermentation of sugars: Amygdaline (+), arabinose (-), cellobiose (+), esculine (+), fructose (+), galactose (-), glucose (+), lactose (+), maltose (+/-), mannitol (-),
- 10 mannose (+), melibiose (-), raffinose (+), ribose (-), salicine (+), sucrose (+), tréhalose (+).

Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116

- 15 - Gram positive
- Catalase negative,
- NH₃ form arginine negative,
- CO₂ production negative
- production of L(+) lactic acid,
- 20 - growth in the presence of bile salts in a concentration of up to about 0.4%.

The isolated strain of lactic bacteria and/or its fermented medium of culture may be used for the preparation of compositions intended for improving pet health, and particularly for the prevention or treatment of disorders related to GHLOs infection in pets.

They can also be used in other disorders related to GHLOs infection such as bad breath odors. In fact, the presence of GLHOs in cat and dog stomach may have a clear influence in breath odors by producing large quantity of ammonia from urea. This ammonia can appear in breath after eructation. Bad breath could be also related to the presence GHLOs in stomach by the production of sulfide volatiles compounds. Preferably, the metabolites produced by said isolated strains are intended to reduce bad breath odors and freshen the pet's breath.

35 A subfraction of cultured medium fermented by the isolated strain of lactic acid bacteria may also be used.

The lactic acid bacteria strain according to the invention, may be used in its viable or inactivated form.

In a preferred embodiment the lactic bacteria strain is used in the presence of its fermented growth medium. The said medium can be either sterilized alone or with a food, extruded or spray-dried, chilled or shelf stable, for example.

The lactic acid bacteria or the equivalent fermentation medium may be used so that the amount available for the pet may correspond to about 10^3 - 10^{14} cfu per day. This amount depends on the animal weight, and it is preferably of about 10^9 - 10^{12} cfu /day for dogs and 10^7 - 10^{11} cfu /day for cats.

In another embodiment, the invention relates to a method for the treatment or for the prophylaxis of disorders related to GHLOs infection in pets, which comprises administering to a pet a composition containing at least one strain of lactic acid bacteria and /or a medium fermented by at least one lactic acid bacteria having the above traits. The amount available for the pet may correspond to about 10^3 - 10^{14} cfu per day, and it is preferably of about 10^9 - 10^{12} cfu /day for dogs and 10^7 - 10^{11} cfu /day for cats.

The second main object of the present invention relates to a pet food composition containing at least an isolated strain of lactic acid bacteria and/or its metabolites or fermented growth medium, said lactic bacteria having the above traits, associated with an ingestible support or a pharmaceutical matrix.

The strain and/or its fermented medium may be selected from one or more lactic bacteria suitable for animal consumption for their ability to display a strong anti-*Helicobacter* bactericidal activity *in vitro*.

At least one bacterial strain having the above traits and/or its fermented medium may be administered to the pet as a supplement to the its normal diet or as a component of a nutritionally complete pet food.

The nutritionally complete pet food composition according to the invention may be in powdered, dried form or a wet, chilled or shelf stable pet food product.

It can also be dietary supplements for pets or pharmaceutical compositions.

The nutritionally complete pet food may be in any suitable form; for example in dried form, semi-moist form and wet form. These pet foods may be

produced as is conventional. Apart from the bacteria strains and/or its fermented medium, these pet foods may include any one or more of a starch source, a protein source and lipid source.

5 Suitable starch sources are, for example, grains and legumes such as corn, rice, wheat, barley, oats, soy, and mixtures of these.

 Suitable protein sources may be selected from any suitable animal or vegetable protein source; for example meat and meal, poultry meal, fish meal,
10 soy protein concentrates, milk proteins, gluten, and the like. For elderly animals, it is preferred for the protein source to contain a high quality protein.

 Suitable lipid sources include meats, animal fats and vegetable fats.

15 The choice of the starch, protein and lipid sources will be largely determined by the nutritional needs of the animal, palatability considerations, and the type of product produced. For elderly pets, the pet food preferably contains proportionally less fat than pet foods for younger pets. Further, the starch
20 sources may include one or more of rice, barley, wheat and corn.

 Further, various other ingredients, for example, sugar, salt, spices, seasonings, vitamins, minerals, flavouring agents, fats and the like may also be incorporated into the pet food as desired.

25 For dried pet foods a suitable process is extrusion cooking, although baking and other suitable processes may be used. When extrusion cooked, the dried pet food is usually provided in the form of a kibble. If a prebiotic is used, the prebiotic may be admixed with the other ingredients of the dried pet food prior to processing. A suitable process is described in European patent application No
30 0850569; the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference. If a probiotic micro-organism is used, the organism is best coated onto or filled into the dried pet food. A suitable process is described in European patent application No 0862863; the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

35 For wet foods, the processes described in US patents 4,781,939 and 5,132,137 may be used to produce simulated meat products. The disclosures of these patents are incorporated by reference. Other procedures for producing chunk type products may also be used; for example cooking in a steam oven. Alternatively, loaf type products may be produced by emulsifying a suitable meat

material to produce a meat emulsion, adding a suitable gelling agent, and heating the meat emulsion prior to filling into cans or other containers.

5 The amount of prebiotic in the pet food is preferably about 20% by weight; especially about 10% by weight. For example, the prebiotic may comprise about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the pet food. For pet foods which use chicory as the prebiotic, the chicory may be included to comprise about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the feed mixture; more preferably about 1% to about 5% by weight.

10 If a probiotic microorganism is used, the pet food preferably contains about 10^4 to about 10^{10} cells of the probiotic microorganism per gram of the pet food; more preferably about 10^6 to about 10^8 cells of the probiotic microorganism per gram. The pet food may contain about 0.5% to about 20% by weight of the mixture of the probiotic microorganism; preferably about 1% to about 6% by weight; for example about 3% to about 6% by weight.

20 The pet foods may contain other active agents such as long chain fatty acids. Suitable long chain fatty acids include alpha-linoleic acid, gamma linoleic acid, linoleic acid, eicosapentanoic acid, and docosahexanoic acid. Fish oils are a suitable source of eicosapentanoic acids and docosahexanoic acid. Borage oil, blackcurrent seed oil and evening primrose oil are suitable sources of gamma linoleic acid. Safflower oils, sunflower oils, corn oils and soy bean oils are suitable sources of linoleic acid.

25 If necessary, the pet foods are supplemented with minerals and vitamins so that they are nutritionally complete.

Further, if desired, the bacteria strain may be encapsulated; for example in a sugar matrix, fat matrix or polysaccharide matrix.

30 The amount of the pet food to be consumed by the pet to obtain a beneficial effect will depend upon the size or the pet, the type of pet, and age of the pet. However an amount of the pet food to provide a daily amount of about 10^3 - 10^{14} cfu of at least one lactic acid bacteria strain and/or the equivalent fermentation medium, would usually be adequate. Preferably about 10^9 - 10^{12} cfu /day for dogs or 10^7 - 10^{11} cfu /day for cats are administered.

The composition according to the invention is particularly intended for the prophylaxis or the treatment of infections related to GHLOs in pets, and in

particular in the gastrointestinal tracts or in lower bowel of pets, for example. It is also intended for maintaining healthy digestive function in pets and preventing reinfection by pathogenic strains such as GHLOs, for example. Thus, this composition may also be used as adjuvant of an antibiotherapy against GHLOs infestation.

The effect of the composition according to the invention on GHLOs was evaluated by a histologic examination of biopsy sections (see example 2). If the number of GHLOs per section is no bacteria (grade" 0"); less than 5 bacteria (grade" 1"); between 5 and 20 bacteria (grade" 2") and more than 20 bacteria (grade" 3"). This pet food composition is able to decrease GHLO infection in cats and dogs so that the GHLOs load and the urease activity in the fundus are reduced of at least 0,5 grade and of at least 0,5 grade in the antrum.

The effect of the composition on chronic gastritis was also evaluated by cytological examination of biopsy thin sections. The histological classification of chronic gastritis is :

- grade 0: superficial fibrosis, 0 neutrophils, 0-10 lymphocytes and plasma cells, no aggregates, normal epithelium;
- mild chronic gastritis – grade 1: chronic superficial gastritis, 10-15 lymphocytes or plasma cells involving the superficial interstitial tissue, aggregates <2, normal epithelium,
- moderate chronic gastritis – grade 2: chronic interstitial gastritis, 10-50 or more lymphocytes or plasma cells involving the full thickness of the mucosa, aggregates >3, normal epithelium
- severe chronic gastritis – grade 3 : atrophic gastritis, 10-50 or more lymphocytes or plasma cells, aggregates >3, glandular epithelium changes.

This composition can induce a regression of chronic fundic gastritis, with a median regression of the grade of gastric inflammation of at least about 0.5.

This composition has also been shown to induce a significant reduction of breath odors. Thus, it is intended for treating or preventing secondary disorders related to GHLOs infection such as bad breath odors of pets.

Further, the compositions according to the present invention may also be intended for improving longevity of dogs.

The following examples are given by way of illustration only and in no way should be construed as limiting the subject matter of the present application. All percentages are given by weight unless otherwise indicated.

Examples

Example 1 : Selection of bacterial strain

In order to select bacterial strain according to the present invention, cultivable GHLOs (10^7 bacteria) may be incubated at 37°C under 5% CO₂ for 1-2 hrs in presence of serial dilutions of said bacterial strain growth supernatant (BS) in DMEM. Following incubation, GHLOs-BS mixture is centrifuged at 12'000 g for 3 minutes, the pellet is then washed with 1 ml of 0.9% NaCl, and resuspended in 500 µl of rapid urease test (Jatrox®-H.p.-test, Procter&Gamble Pharmaceuticals GmbH, Weiterstadt, Germany). The colorimetric changes, proportional to urease activity, are determined by photometric analysis at an optical density of 550 nm.

Bacterial viability is estimated before and after incubation with LS by plating serial dilutions of GHLOs on serum plates (GC agar, Gibco BRL, Paisley, Scotland) supplemented with 10% horse serum, Inotec, and with 1% Isovitale X (Baltimore Biological Laboratories, Baltimore, MD), and counting colony forming units (CFU).

Example 2

The effects of a supplement with fermentation medium of *Lactobacillus* on *Helicobacter spp.* infection in dogs is studied.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals

The ethical committee at the Veterinary School of Lyon - France, approved the study. Nine male beagles, which had naturally contracted a gastric infection with GHLOs, were included in the study. The dogs ranged in weight from 10 to 14 kg and age from 3 to 4 years. The dogs were housed in individual kennels with

identical conditions of hygiene and feeding (Veterinary School of Lyon - France). The kennels were cleaned and disinfected daily.

The dogs were regularly fed at 8 a.m. and they had constantly access to water throughout the study. During the whole study, they were fed with a specific diet: VITALITY® - Friskies, France (annexe A).

Experimental design

Before the treatment, the gastric infection with GHLOs had been confirmed in the 9 beagles by evaluating the identification of GHLOs (histobacteriology), the gastric urease activity (Jatrox® test) and the presence of chronic gastritis (histopathology) in fundic and/or antral biopsies of the stomach. All dogs with GHLOs infection were subjected to a treatment for 13 days running. The detection of gastric infection with GHLOs by these tests plus the ¹³C-urea breath test was repeated three times: before the treatment [D₀], at the end of the treatment [D₁₃] and 30 days after the end of the treatment [D₄₃].

Treatment

The treatment was composed by a daily consumption of one acidified milk preparation fermented by *L. johnsonii* NCC 533 for 13 days running. The acidified milk preparation had to be entirely eaten before the specific diet (240 g "VITALITY® / dog).

Evaluation tests

- Clinical examination: during the whole study, the dogs were watched by two veterinary surgeons of the Veterinary School of Lyon - France. The clinical observations had to be recorded in the case report form.
- Gastric biopsy: the gastric endoscopy was realised under anaesthesia (ketamine, IMALGENE®, 5 mg / kg - IM). The dogs were fasted for 24 hours. The endoscopy was carried out with a videogastroscope Olympus® GIFK/XV10. At each evaluation day, 12 biopsies had to take from fundus and antrum. Two fundic and antral biopsies had to be immediately used to measure the urease activity of GHLOs. Four fundic and antral biopsies had to had to keep in a "bouin" solution before being used for histobacteriology and histopathology.

- Identification of GHLOs (histobacteriology): the identification of GHLOs was made by a histologic examination of biopsy sections. The tissue sections were stained with a Giemsa-type stain and evaluated by light microscopy (x 1000). A semi-quantitative evaluation of the GHLOs is done taking into account the localisation in the stomach and the deapness of the extracellular contamination. If the number of GHLOs per section is no bacteria (grade" 0"); less than 5 bacteria (grade" 1"); between 5 and 20 bacteria (grade" 2") and more than 20 bacteria (grade" 3"). For each fundic and antral biopsy, two sections were made, then evaluated, and the result was the mean of two evaluations (Ref. Willard M.D. Characterization of naturally developing small intestinal bacterial overgrowth in 16 German Shepherd Dogs. *J Am Vet Med Assoc*, 1994, 204, 1201-1206).
- Gastric urease activity (Jatrox[®]- H.P. test, Procter & Gamble, Germany): the principle of the test is that the urea in the test medium is split by the urease present in the GHLOs. The rise in the pH value associated with the splitting of the urea causes a colour change in the indicator medium (phenol red) from yellow to pink/red. The biopsies were tested immediately after their specimen. After the introduction of the biopsy in the indicator medium, the Jatrox[®] test was read at 180 minutes by a photometer with an ultraviolet detector which was set at 550 nm for reading with a reference at 650 nm. The urease activity in fundic and antral biopsies was the mean of two optical measures.
- ¹³C-urea breath test: the UBT test was realised two hours after the anaesthesia for endoscopy, so that this one did not influence the results of the UBT. The UBT were made in fasting dogs, without anaesthesia. At a first time, the dogs ate a test meal, which was half of their daily intake; namely 120g VITALITY[®] / dog. At a second time, the dogs had an oral administration of 7.5mg ¹³C-urea / dog (MASS TRACE, Woburn - USA). The ¹³CO₂ breathed out samples were obtained before the test meal [TB], then 40 minutes after administration of ¹³C-urea [T40]. After, the dogs had the second half of their daily food intake. The ¹³CO₂ urea breathed out samples were analysed with a gas isotope ratio mass spectrometer (FINNIGAN MAT, Bremen - Germany). To standardise the interlaboratory results, an analogue of international standard for ¹³C-reference (Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite or VPDB) was utilised. The atom percent excess for ¹³CO₂ was defined as the difference (delta value, δ) in atom percent ¹³CO₂ between the baseline sample (sample before test meal and ¹³C

administration [TB]) and samples obtained after at 40 minutes [T40] x 1000 (44,45). Results are expressed as an excess $\delta^{13}\text{CO}_2$ (‰).

5 • Histopathology (cytology): the histopathology was made by cytoloBT test was made by cytological examination of biopsy thin sections. The impression sections were stained with Hematoxylin-Phloxin-Saffron (HPS) and observed by microscopy. The criteria for histological diagnoses of gastric biopsies relies on the number of each cell type which is the mean of three fields viewed at x400 magnification and the amount of lymphocytic aggregates which is the number in a sample at x200 magnification. The histological classification of chronic gastritis is :

- grade 0: superficial fibrosis, 0 neutrophils, 0-10 lymphocytes and plasma cells, no aggregates, normal epithelium;
- 15 - mild chronic gastritis – grade 1: chronic superficial gastritis, 10-15 lymphocytes or plasma cells involving the superficial interstitial tissue, aggregates <2, normal epithelium,
- moderate chronic gastritis – grade 2: chronic interstitial gastritis, 10-50 or more lymphocytes or plasma cells involving the full thickness of the micoso, aggregates >3, normal epithelium
- 20 - severe chronic gastritis–grade 3: atrophic gastritis, 10-50 or more lymphocytes or plasma cells, aggregates >3, glandular epithelium changes (atrophy).

(Ref. : P. Lecoindre, M. Chevallier, R. Gillard and F. Daurin.- Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth and inflammatory bowel diseases in dogs. Evaluation of the therapeutic efficacy of Spiramycine-Metronidazole association. Revue Méd. Vét, 1998;149:843-852).

Statistical analysis

30 Each result of diagnostic tests was the mean of two measures from distinct biopsies. The normality or non-normality of the result distribution had been examinrd by the Wilk-Shapiro procedure.

The effects of the treatment and post-treatment were evaluated by using a Wilcoxon Signed Rank test (WSRT) and/or Paired t-test.

35 All statistical calculations were performed with a software program (Statistix®, Excel Microsoft®). A P-value < 0.05 was considered as significant.

RESULTS

Kinetic of gastric *GHLOs* load : The results are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1 : Histobacteriology in fundus

	Fundus / Corps (grade)					
	D ₀	D ₁₄	D ₄₃	D ₁₄ - D ₀	D ₄₃ - D ₁₄	D ₄₃ - D ₀
B01	3	1	2	-2	1	-1
B02	3	2	3	-1	1	0
B04	2	1	0	-1	-1	-2
B05	3	2	1	-1	-1	-2
B06	3	0	3	-3	3	0
B07	3	1	2	-2	1	-1
B08	3	3	2	0	-1	-1
B09	3	1	1	-2	0	-2
B10	3	1	3	-2	2	0
Median	3	1	2	-2	1	-1
Nbr. < 0	-	-	-	8	3	6
Nbr. = 0	-	-	-	1	1	3
Nbr. > 0	-	-	-	0	5	0
n	9	9	9	9	9	9
Mean	2.9	1.3	1.9	-1.6	0.6	-1
+/- SEM	0.11	0.29	0.35	0.29	0.47	0.29

	D ₁₄ vs D ₀	D ₄₃ vs D ₁₄	D ₄₃ vs D ₀
WSRT	0.0143	0.3270	0.0360

Table 2 : Histobacteriology in Antrum

	Antrum (grade)					
	D ₀	D ₁₄	D ₄₃	D ₁₄ - D ₀	D ₄₃ - D ₁₄	D ₄₃ - D ₀
B01	1	1	2	0	1	1
B02	1	1	2	0	1	1
B04	2	1	0	-1	-1	-2
B05	2	1	2	-1	1	0
B06	2	1	1	-1	0	-1
B07	1	0	1	-1	1	0
B08	1	1	1	0	0	0
B09	2	0	2	-2	2	0
B10	2	1	1	-1	0	-1
Median	2	1	1	-1	1	0
Nbr. < 0	-	-	-	6	1	3
Nbr. = 0	-	-	-	3	3	4
Nbr. > 0	-	-	-	0	5	2
n	9	9	9	9	9	9
Mean	1.6	0.8	1.3	-0.8	0.6	-0.2
+/- SEM	0.18	0.15	0.24	0.22	0.29	0.32

	D ₁₄ vs D ₀	D ₄₃ vs D ₁₄	D ₄₃ vs D ₀
WSRT	0.0360	0.1422	0.5896

At the end of running of treatment ([D₀] to [D₁₄]), the median bacterial load with GHLOs was significantly decreased to grade from "3" to "1" in the fundus (P= 0.0143) and from "2" to "1" in the antrum (P= 0.0360).

Between the start of treatment and the end of study ([D₀] to [D₄₃]), the median bacterial load with GHLOs was significantly decreased to grade from "3" to "2" in fundic biopsies (P<0.0360). In antral biopsies, there is no significantly difference.

Gastric urease activity (Jatrox[®] test) : The results are presented in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3 : Gastric urease activity (Jatrox[®] test) in fundus

	Fundus / Corps (optical density)					
	D ₀	D ₁₄	D ₄₃	D ₁₄ - D ₀	D ₄₃ - D ₁₄	D ₄₃ - D ₀
B01	0.43	0.34	0.43	-0.09	0.09	0.01
B02	0.42	0.39	0.44	-0.04	0.05	0.01
B04	0.54	0.00	0.44	-0.53	0.44	-0.10
B05	0.47	0.31	0.49	-0.16	0.18	0.02
B06	0.44	0.42	0.43	-0.02	0.01	-0.01
B07	0.52	0.40	0.41	-0.11	0.01	-0.11
B08	0.68	0.31	0.40	-0.37	0.09	-0.28
B09	0.45	0.35	0.38	-0.10	0.02	-0.08
B10	0.44	0.32	0.43	-0.13	0.01	-0.01
Median	0.46	0.34	0.43	-0.12	0.09	-0.01
Nbr. < 0	-	-	-	9	0	6
Nbr. = 0	-	-	-	0	0	0
Nbr. > 0	-	-	-	0	9	3
n	9	9	9	9	9	9
Mean	0.49	0.32	0.43	-0.17	0.11	-0.06
+ SEM	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.03

	D ₁₄ vs D ₀	D ₄₃ vs D ₁₄	D ₄₃ vs D ₀
Paired t-test	0.0155	0.0381	0.0921

Table 4 : Gastric urease activity (Jatrox[®] test) in Antrum

	Antrum (optical density)					
	D ₀	D ₁₄	D ₄₃	D ₁₄ - D ₀	D ₄₃ - D ₁₄	D ₄₃ - D ₀
B01	0.31	0.00	0.00	-0.31	0.00	-0.31
B02	0.33	0.05	0.00	-0.28	-0.05	-0.33
B04	0.41	0.00	0.00	-0.41	0.00	-0.41
B05	0.46	0.00	0.00	-0.46	0.00	-0.46
B06	0.28	0.00	0.00	-0.28	0.00	-0.28
B07	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00
B08	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.07	-0.07	0.00
B09	0.05	0.00	0.00	-0.05	0.00	-0.05
B10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Median	0.28	0.00	0.00	-0.28	0.00	-0.28
Nbr. < 0	-	-	-	6	2	6
Nbr. = 0	-	-	-	2	7	3
Nbr. > 0	-	-	-	1	0	0
n	9	9	9	9	9	9
Mean	0.20	0.01	0.00	-0.19	-0.01	-0.20
+ SEM	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.06

	D ₁₄ vs D ₀	D ₄₃ vs D ₁₄	D ₄₃ vs D ₀
Paired t-test	0.0197	0.1756	0.0123

At the end of the running of treatment ([D₀] to [D₁₄]), the mean of urease activity decreased significantly of 35% in fundus (P=0.0155) and 93% in antrum (P=0.0197).

Twenty-nine days after the end of treatment ([D₁₄] to [D₄₃]), the mean urease activity increased significantly of 35% in fundic biopsies (P=0.0381) but still remained lower than at the beginning of the treatment. The antral urease activity was not modified and stayed null.

Global urease activity (¹³C-urea breath test) :

The results are given in Table 5.

Table 5 : Global urease activity (^{13}C -urea breath test)

	D ₀	D ₁₄	D ₄₃	D ₁₄ - D ₀	D ₄₃ - D ₁₄	D ₄₃ - D ₀
B01	34	6	55	-28	49	21
B02	18	26	21	8	-5	3
B04	165	24	50	-141	26	-116
B05	15	7	6	-8	-1	-9
B06	18	20	19	2	-1	1
B07	12	13	22	1	9	10
B08	47	17	15	-30	-2	-32
B09	20	10	9	-10	-1	-11
B10	32	9	13	-23	4	-19
Median	20	13	20	-10	-1	-9
Nbr. < 0	-	-	-	6	5	5
Nbr. = 0	-	-	-	0	0	0
Nbr. > 0	-	-	-	3	4	4
n	9	9	9	9	9	9
Mean	40	14	23	-26	9	-17
+/- SEM	16	3	6	15	6	13

	D ₁₄ vs D ₀	D ₄₃ vs D ₁₄	D ₄₃ vs D ₀
WSRT	0.0494	0.4772	0.3433

Between the start and the end of the treatment ([D₀] to [D₁₄]), the median ^{13}C -enrichment of 35% $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ -breathed out decreased significantly (P=0.049).

At the end of 29 days after the end of treatment ([D₁₄] to [D₄₃]), the ^{13}C -enrichment of $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ -breathed out was not significantly modified.

Chronic gastritis (^{13}C -urea breath test) :

The results are given in Tables 6 and 7.

Table 6 : Histopathology in fundus

	Fundus / Corps (grade)					
	Inclusion	D ₁₄	D ₄₃	D ₁₄ - Incl.	D ₄₃ - D ₁₄	D ₄₃ - Incl.
B01	2	1	0	-1	-1	-2
B02	1	0	0	-1	0	-1
B04	2	0	0	-2	0	-2
B05	1	1	1	0	0	0
B06	1	0	1	-1	1	0
B07	1	0	0	-1	0	-1
B08	1	0	0	-1	0	-1
B09	1	0	0	-1	0	-1
B10	2	0	0	-2	0	-2
Median	1	0	0	-1	0	-1
Nbr. < 0	-	-	-	8	1	7
Nbr. = 0	-	-	-	1	7	2
Nbr. > 0	-	-	-	0	1	0
n	9	9	9	9	9	9
Mean	1.3	0.2	0.2	-1.1	0.0	-1.1
+ SEM	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.17	0.26

	D ₁₄ - Incl.	D ₄₃ - D ₁₄	D ₄₃ - Incl.
WSRT	0.0143	0.7500	0.0225

Table 7 : Histopathology in antrum

	Antrum (grade)					
	Inclusion	D ₁₄	D ₄₃	D ₁₄ - Incl.	D ₄₃ - D ₁₄	D ₄₃ - Incl.
B01	1	2	0	1	-2	-1
B02	1	0	2	-1	2	1
B04	0	0	0	0	0	0
B05	0	1	1	1	0	1
B06	1	0	1	-1	1	0
B07	1	0	1	-1	1	0
B08	1	1	1	0	0	0
B09	1	0	0	-1	0	-1
B10	1	1	0	0	-1	-1
Median	1	0	1	0	0	0
Nbr. < 0	-	-	-	4	2	3
Nbr. = 0	-	-	-	3	4	4
Nbr. > 0	-	-	-	2	3	2
n	9	9	9	9	9	9
Mean	0.8	0.6	0.7	-0.2	0.1	-0.1
+ SEM	0.15	0.24	0.24	0.28	0.39	0.26

	D ₁₄ - Incl.	D ₄₃ - D ₁₄	D ₄₃ - Incl.
WSRD	0.5294	0.8336	0.7874

At the end of running of treatment ([Incl.] to [D14]), the median chronic gastritis was significantly decreased to grade from "1" to "0" in the fundus ($P=0.0143$). This decrease was maintained until the end of the study. Any significant modification of median grade had not showed in antral biopsies.

5

CONCLUSION

	TREATMENT ([D ₁₄] vs [D ₀]) <i>Specific diet</i> <i>+ L. johnsonii NCC 533</i> <i>fermented milk preparation</i>		POST-TREATMENT ([D ₄₃] vs [D ₁₄]) <i>Specific diet</i>	
	FUNDUS	ANTRUM	FUNDUS	ANTRUM
GHLOs ⁽²⁾ -a	(-)*	(-)*	ns	ns
Urease Activity ⁽¹⁾ -b	(-)*	(-)*	(+)*	ns
Urease Activity ⁽²⁾ -c	(-)*		ns	

	([D ₁₄] vs Inclusion)		([D ₄₃] vs [D ₁₄])	
Chronic Gastritis ⁽²⁾ -d	(-)*	ns	ns	ns

⁽¹⁾ Paired t-test; ⁽²⁾ Wilcoxon Signed Rank test - (-) (+) negative or positive variation -

10 • $P < 0.05$ - ^a Histobacteriology - ^b Jatrox[®] test - ^c ¹³C-Urea Breath test - ^d Histopathology

In dogs having a gastric GHLOs infection with a chronic gastritis, the consumption of an acidified milk preparation fermented by *L. johnsonii* NCC 533 was able to obtain:

- 15
- in fundus and in antrum, a significant decrease of GHLOs load and the urease activity and the regression of chronic gastritis during the treatment ,
 - in fundus, a significant regression of chronic gastritis that was maintained after the end of treatment,
 - 20 - no side effect.

Example 3: Anti-Helicobacter properties present in the culture supernatants of different Lactobacilli strains.

5 The in-vitro anti-GHLO properties of growth culture supernatants of Lactobacilli of the isolated strains : NCC 533, NCC 2583 and NCC 2628 were assessed by inhibition of urease activity.

10 *H. bizzozeronii* and *H. salomonis* were grown in Columbia agar - 5% sheep blood. *H. felis* was grown on brain heart infusion (BHI) agar containing 3 g/L yeast extract and 10% sheep blood. All *Helicobacter* species were maintained in a microaerophilic atmosphere (85%N₂/10% CO₂/ 5% O₂) at 37°C for 48 h. Bacteria were harvested in BHI broth supplemented with 2.5 g/L yeast extract. The number of bacteria was estimated by measuring the optical density at 600 nm (1 OD₆₀₀=10⁸ bacteria/ml).

15 Culture supernatants, pure or pre-diluted in the appropriated medium, were finally diluted 1:2 in DMEM medium. After adjusting pH to 4.2, samples were sterilized by filtration through 0.2 µm. The equivalent of 1x10⁷ *H. pylori* was added to tubes containing 500 µl of different samples and tubes were further maintained for 1 hr at 37°C in a cell incubator (5% CO₂). Bacteria were harvested by centrifugation. Bacterial pellets were washed once in 0.9% NaCl and resuspended in 250 µl of urease test reagent (Jatrox®-H.p.-test; Procter & Gamble Pharmaceutical). After an additional incubation of 1 h at 37°C, the colorimetric changes, proportional to urease activity, were determined by spectrophotometry at an optical density (OD) of 550nm.

Fermented supernatant preparation

30 The Lactobacilli from Nestle culture collection named NCC 2583 and NCC 2628 were grown in MRS-Pasteur medium. *E. faecium* SF68 and *S. boulardii* SB20 were grown in HJL and YPF medium, respectively. After 48 h at 37°C, bacteria were pelleted and fermented supernatants were recovered and kept frozen at -20°C until further use.

Results

35 Stocks of Lactobacillus strains, NCC 2583 and NCC 2628, of *E. faecium* SF68 (Bioferment) and of *S. boulardii* SB20 (Levucell) were grown in parallel in their appropriated media. The different fermented supernatants

were tested for their inhibitory capacity against *H. bizzozeronii*, *H. salomonis* and *H. felis* using the urease test. A NCC 533 growth culture supernatant was used as a positive control and the culture media alone were used as negative controls in the assays.

Table 8 shows the results of two separate experiments. The fermented supernatant of the *L. acidophilus* NCC 2628 totally inhibited the urease activity of *H. bizzozeronii*, *H. salomonis* and *H. felis*. The fermented supernatant of *L. rhamnosus* NCC 2583 partially inhibited the urease activity of *H. bizzozeronii* and *H. salomonis* but not that of *H. felis*.

The incubation of any of the *Helicobacter* species with the *L. johnsonii* NCC 533 culture supernatant led to a complete inhibition of their urease activity. No inhibition of urease activity was observed when incubating the three *Helicobacter* species with the growth culture supernatants of *E. faecium* SF68, of *S. boulardii* SB20.

Table 8 : Effect of different fermented supernatants on GHLO urease activity

Sample	species	Initial pH	Uréease	activity	(OD _{550 nm})
			<i>H.bizzozeronii</i>	<i>H.felis</i>	<i>H.salomonis</i>
MRS-Pasteur	-	6.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
YPD	-	6.4	0.5	0.6	0.5
CNCM I-1225	<i>L.johnsonii</i>	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
CNCM I-2583	<i>L.rhamnosus</i>	4.1	0.3	0.2	0.5
CNCM I-2628	<i>L.acidophilus</i>	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
SF68	<i>E.faecium</i>	5.1	0.5	0.5	0.5
SB20	<i>S.boulardii</i>	4.2	0.5	0.5	0.6

3 Lactobacilli, *E.faecium*, *S.boulardii* were cultured for 48h in their appropriated media. Dilution 1/2 of the fermented culture supernatants were incubated with 2x10⁷ bacteria/ml. After incubation of 1 h, the urease activities of *H.bizzozeronii*, *H. felis* and *H.salomonis* were assessed by spectrophotometry. Total inhibition OD_{550nm}=0; No inhibition OD_{550nm}≥0.5.

Example 4 : Dry dog food

A feed mixture is made up of about 58% by weight corn, about 5.5% by weight of corn gluten, about 22% by weight of chicken meal, 2,5% dried chicory, fermented milk by strains of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* NCC 533 (CNCM-I 1225) and *Lactobacillus paracasei* (CNCM-I 2116) so that the corresponding amount for the dog is about 10^9 - 10^{12} cfu / day, and salts, vitamins and minerals making up the remainder.

The feed mixture is fed into a preconditioner and moistened. The moistened feed is then fed into an extruder-cooker and gelatinised. The gelatinised matrix leaving the extruder is forced through a die and extruded. The extrudate is cut into pieces suitable for feeding to dogs, dried at about 110°C for about 20 minutes, and cooled to form pellets.

This dry dog food is able to improve pet health, and particularly prevents disorders related to GHLOs infection in pets.

Example 5

A trial is conducted on a panel of 20 male beagles, which had naturally contracted a gastric infection with GHLOs. All dogs were first given an antibiotics a classical treatment for eradication of GHLOs, comprising administering two different antibiotics (Spiramycine and Metronidazole) and one antisecretory like Omeprazole during 1 week.

After 7 days of treatment, half the dogs were GHLOs negative, i.e. no *Helicobacter* organisms were detected by histobacteriology, no gastric urease activity and a ^{13}C -Urea Breath test value lower than 5 ‰ of increase over baserline at 40 minutes.

After the treatment, half of the dogs were fed with Friskies Menu Energy product, which is dried dog food available on the market, as a control food. The 10 remaining dogs were fed with a test food corresponding to the Friskies Menu Energy product except that it contains pellets of dry fermented milk by strains of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* NCC 533 (CNCM-I 1225) and *Lactobacillus paracasei* (CNCM-I 2116), so that the amount for a dog is of about 10^9 - 10^{12} cfu/ day.

The ^{13}C -Urea Breath test and Helicobacter detection by histobacteriology were measured again 6 weeks after feeding these two different diets. The result shows that 20% of the dogs fed with normal Friskies Menu Energy product, became positive in 6 weeks. All dogs fed with the test food were negative after 6 weeks.

This composition is efficient as an adjuvant in antibiotherapies for GHLOs reinfestation prevention.

Example 6: canned pet food

A mixture is prepared from 73 % of poultry carcass, pig lungs and beef liver (ground), 16 % of wheat flour, 2 % of dyes and 9 % of fermented milk by strains of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* NCC 533 (CNCM-I 1225) and *Bifidobacterium lactis* (ATCC 27536), vitamins, and inorganic salts. This mixture is emulsified at 12°C and extruded in the form of a pudding which is then cooked at a temperature of 90°C. It is cooled to 30°C and cut in chunks. 45 % of these chunks are mixed with 55 % of a sauce prepared from 98 % of water, 1 % of dye and 1 % of guar gum. Tinplate cans are filled and sterilized at 125°C for 40 min.

This wet composition is intended for preventing or treating disorders related to GHLOs infection in pets.

Example 7: Effect on bad breath odors

10 dogs with GHLOs in stomach were fed with the same diet that in example 2 for 2 weeks. The breath odor was measured in each dogs at the beginning and at the end of the treatment by the help of an halitometer.

This experiment showed that feeding the dogs with a composition containing an acidified milk preparation fermented by *L. johnsonii* NCC 533 induces an significant reduction of breath odors.

Furthermore there was clear correlation between the level of infection by helicobacter and the breath odors.

Claims

1. The use of at least one strain of lactic bacteria and / or its metabolites or a medium fermented by at least one lactic bacteria that have been isolated and selected for its ability to display a strong anti-Helicobacter bactericidal activity *in vitro*, for the preparation of a composition intended for the prophylaxis or the treatment of disorders related to GHLOs infection in pets.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is used in the form of a fermented medium by the said lactic acid bacteria, or a subfraction of cultured medium fermented by the lactic acid bacteria.

3. The use according to any of preceding claims, wherein the lactic acid bacteria strain is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuterii*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus animalis*, *Lactobacillus ruminis*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus rahmnosus*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Bifidobacterium sp.*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*.

4. The use according to any of preceding claims, wherein the lactic bacteria strain is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* NCC 533 (CNCM-I 1225), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2581 (CNCM I-2448), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2592 (CNCM I-2450), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2613 (CNCM I-2452), *Lactobacillus paracasei* NCC 2461 (CNCM-I 2116), *Lactobacillus animalis* NCC 2603 (CNCM I-2451), *Lactobacillus rahmnosus* NCC 2583 (CNCM I-2449), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* NCC 2628 (CNCM I-2453), *Bifidobacterium lactis* (ATCC 27536).

5. The use according to any of preceding claims, wherein the lactic acid bacteria or the equivalent fermentation medium is used so that the amount available for the pet is of about 10^3 - 10^{14} cfu per day.

6. The use according to any of preceding claims, wherein the lactic acid bacteria or the equivalent fermentation medium is used in an amount of about 10^9 - 10^{12} cfu /day for dogs and 10^7 - 10^{11} cfu /day for cats.

7. A method for the treatment or for the prophylaxis of disorders related to GHLOs infection in pets, which comprises administering to a pet a composition containing at least one strain of lactic acid bacteria and /or its metabolites or a

medium fermented by at least one lactic acid bacteria that have been isolated and selected for its ability to display a strong anti-Helicobacter bactericidal activity *in vitro*.

5 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein about 10^3 - 10^{14} cfu of the lactic bacteria or its equivalent fermentation medium is administered per day to the pet.

9. A wet food composition containing an effective amount of at least one isolated strain of lactic bacteria and/or its metabolites or its fermented growth
10 medium, said lactic bacteria being isolated and selected for its ability to display a strong anti-Helicobacter bactericidal activity *in vitro*, associated with an ingestible support or a pharmaceutical matrix.

10. A composition according to claim 9, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is used
15 in the form of a fermented medium by a lactic acid bacteria viable or inactivated, or a subfraction of cultured medium fermented by the lactic acid bacteria.

11. A composition according to claims 9 or 10, wherein the lactic acid bacteria strain is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*,
20 *Lactobacillus reuterii*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus animalis*, *Lactobacillus ruminis*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus rahmnosus*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Bifidobacterium sp.*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*.

12. A composition according to any of claims 9 to 11, wherein the lactic bacteria strain is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* NCC 533 (CNCM-I 1225), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2581 (CNCM I-2448), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2592 (CNCM I-2450), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2613 (CNCM I-2452), *Lactobacillus paracasei* NCC 2461 (CNCM-I
30 2116), *Lactobacillus animalis* NCC 2603 (CNCM I-2451), *Lactobacillus rahmnosus* NCC 2583 (CNCM I-2449), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* NCC 2628 (CNCM I-2453), *Bifidobacterium lactis* (ATCC 27536).

13. A pet food composition containing an effective amount of at least one
35 isolated strain of lactic bacteria and/or its metabolites or its fermented growth medium, said lactic bacteria being isolated and selected for its ability to display a strong anti-Helicobacter bactericidal activity *in vitro*, associated with an ingestible support or a pharmaceutical matrix, the lactic bacteria being selected from *L. Paracasei*, *L. animalis*, *L. fermentum*, *B. lactis* and *B. animalis*.

14. A composition according to any of claims 9 to 13, wherein the amount of lactic acid bacteria strain or the equivalent fermentation medium available for the pet is corresponding to about 10^5 - 10^{14} cfu per day.
- 5 15. A composition according to any of claims 9 to 14, which reduces GHLO infection in cats and dogs so that the GHLOs load and the urease activity in the fundus are reduced of at least 0.5 grade and of at least 0.5 grade in the antrum.
- 10 16. A composition according to any of claims 9 to 15, which induces a regression of chronic fundic gastritis, with a median regression of the grade of gastric inflammation of at least about 0.5.
17. A composition according to any of claims 9 to 14, wherein the metabolites reduce bad breath odors of pets.
- 15 18. A composition according to any of claims 9 to 14, which prevents or reduces disorders related to GHLOs infection in the gastrointestinal tracts of pets.
19. A composition according to claim 18, which prevents or reduces disorders related to GHLOs infection in the stomach or lower bowel of pets.
- 20 20. A pet food supplement containing an effective amount of at least one isolated strain of lactic bacteria and/or its metabolites or its fermented growth medium, said lactic bacteria being isolated and selected for its ability to display a strong anti-Helicobacter bactericidal activity *in vitro*, associated with an ingestible support or a pharmaceutical matrix.
- 25 21. A supplement according to claim 20, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is used in the form of a fermented medium by a lactic acid bacteria viable or inactivated, or a subfraction of cultured medium fermented by the lactic acid bacteria.
- 30 22. A supplement according to claims 20 or 21, wherein the lactic acid bacteria strain is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuterii*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus animalis*, *Lactobacillus ruminis*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus rahnmosus*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Bifidobacterium sp.*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*.

23. A supplement according to any of claims 20 to 22, wherein the lactic bacteria strain is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* NCC 533 (CNCM-I 1225), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2581 (CNCM I-2448), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2592 (CNCM I-2450), *Lactobacillus fermentum* NCC 2613 (CNCM I-2452), *Lactobacillus paracasei* NCC 2461 (CNCM-I 2116), *Lactobacillus animalis* NCC 2603 (CNCM I-2451), *Lactobacillus rahmnosus* NCC 2583 (CNCM I-2449), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* NCC 2628 (CNCM I-2453), *Bifidobacterium lactis* (ATCC 27536).
24. A supplement according to any of claims 20 to 23, wherein the amount of lactic acid bacteria strain or the equivalent fermentation medium available for the pet is corresponding to about 10^3 - 10^{14} cfu per day.
25. A supplement according to any of claims 20 to 24, which reduces GHLO infection in cats and dogs so that the GHLOs load and the urease activity in the fundus are reduced of at least 0.5 grade and of at least 0.5 grade in the antrum.
26. A supplement according to any of claims 20 to 25, which induces a regression of chronic fundic gastritis, with a median regression of the grade of gastric inflammation of at least about 0.5.
27. A supplement according to any of claims 20 to 26, wherein the metabolites reduce bad breath odors of pets.
28. A supplement according to any of claims 20 to 26, which prevents or reduces disorders related to GHLOs infection in the gastrointestinal tracts of pets.
29. A supplement according to claim 28, which prevents or reduces disorders related to GHLOs infection in the stomach or lower bowel of pets.
30. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 6 substantially as herein described.
31. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 6 substantially as herein described with reference to any Example thereof.
32. A method according to claim 7 or claim 8 substantially as herein described.

33. A method according to claim 7 or claim 8 substantially as herein described with reference to any Example thereof.

34. A composition according to any one of claims 9 to 29 substantially as
5 herein described.

35. A composition according to any one of claims 9 to 29 substantially as herein described with reference to any Example thereof.