TABLE 1

Summary of signalment and response to dietary therapy in dogs with chronic inflammatory bowel disease

Subject	Signalment	History	BCS (9 pt)	Clinical outcome	Additional therapy	Chg BW (kg)
1	2.5 yr M Coon-hound	6 mo history vomiting and diarrhea (lg and sm bowel), wt loss (6 kg)	3	Complete resolution	None	+6.6
2	9 y F Collie	3 mo history vomiting & diarrhea (sm bowel), wt loss (3 kg)	6	Complete resolution	None	+6.5
3	2 yr FS Puli	18 mo history of intermittent vomiting	4	Moderate improvement	Metoclopramide	−0.7
4	1.5 yr FS Rhod. Ridge	18 mo history vomiting & diarrhea (lg & sm bowel), wt loss (4 kg)	3	Complete resolution	None	0
5	3 Yr F German Shepherd	3 mo history diarrhea (sm bowel), wt loss (5 kg). Concurrent EPI	3	Moderate improvement	Pancreazyme, Prednisone, Metronidazole	0
6	1.5 yr MC Dalmation	6 mo history vomiting & diarrhea (lg bowel)	7	Moderate improvement	None	0

BW = body weight;
BCS = body condition score, as defined in D. P. Laflamme, "Body Condition Scoring and Weight Maintenance," Proc. N. Am. Vet. Conf. Jan. 16–21, 1993, Orlando, FL, pp 290–291; D. P. Laflamme, R. D. Kealy, and D. A. Schmidt, "Estimation of Body Fat by Body Condition Score," J. Vet. Int. Med. 1994 8:154; D. P. Laflamme, G. Kuhlman, D. F. Lawler, R. D. Kealy, and D. A. Schmidt, "Obesity Management in Dogs," J. Vet. Clin. Nutr. 1994 1:59–65;
EPI = exocrine pancreatic insufficiency;
M = male;
F = female;
FS = female (spayed);
MC = male, castrated.

The above examples are provided by way of illustrating the invention, and not to serve as limitations to it.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for diagnosing or treating a pet with food hypersensitivity, comprising the step of feeding the pet a solid hypoallergenic pet food providing a maintenance diet for said pet, said food comprising a basal mix including a proteinaceous component comprising proteins that have been hydrolyzed under conditions such that said component has an average molecular weight below 18 kD, and at least a portion of said component, but not more than about 20 percent by weight, has a molecular weight above 20 kD.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the protein component has been hydrolyzed by a method selected from the group consisting of acidic hydrolysis, alkaline hydrolysis and enzymatic hydrolsis.

3. The method of claim **1** wherein the protein component is chosen from the group consisting of plant sources and animal sources.

4. The method of claim **3** wherein the plant source is chosen from the group consisting of soy beans, algae, yeast, bacteria, flaxseed, corn, wheat, oats, sorghum, barley, alfalfa, rye, quinoa, peanuts, rice, and potatoes.

5. The method of claim **3**, wherein the animal source is chosen from the group consisting of mammals and their milk, fowl and fish.

6. The method of claim **5** wherein the pet food is in a form chosen from the group consisting of a kibble and a powder from which a gruel can be prepared.

7. The method of claim **1** which is diagnostic for food hypersensitivity.

8. The method of claim **7** wherein the symptom of food hypersensitivity is exhibited by diarrhea in said pet.

9. The method of claim **7** wherein the symptom of food hypersensitivity is exhibited by itching skin in said pet.

10. The method of claim **7** wherein the symptom of food hypersensitivity is exhibited by swelling in said pet.

11. The method of claim **7** wherein the symptom of food hypersensitivity is exhibited by vomiting in said pet.

12. The method of claim **7** wherein the symptom of food hypersensitivity is exhibited by bronco-constriction in said pet.

13. The method of claim **7** wherein the symptom of food hypersensitivity is exhibited by anaphylaxis in said pet.

14. The method of claim **7** wherein the symptom of food hypersensitivity is exhibited by inflammatory bowel disease in said pet.

15. The method of inhibiting the occurrence of food hypersensitivity in a pet, the method comprising the step of orally administering to the pet a solid hypoallergenic pet food composition comprising a basal mix that provides a maintenance diet and includes a proteinaceous component comprising proteins that have been hydrolyzed under conditions such that said component has an average molecular weight below 18 kD, and at least a portion of said component, but not more than about 20 percent by weight, has a molecular weight above 20 kD.

16. The method of claim **15**, wherein the protein component has been hydrolyzed by a method selected from the group consisting of acidic hydrolysis, alkaline hydrolysis and enzymatic hydrolysis.

17. The method of claim **15** wherein the protein component is chosen from the group consisting of plant sources and animal sources.

18. The method of claim **15** wherein the plant source is chosen from the group consisting of soy beans, algae, yeast,