Datasets of type string (https://suricata.readthedocs.io/en/suricata-5.0.1/rules/datasets.html#dataset) need to be in base64. Upon loading non base64 strings though there should be a warning or info message as currently we do not do that but expect the type string to be base64.

cat /opt/rules/dns-requests-dataset.rules

pass dns $HOME_NET any -> any any (msg:"StamusN whitelisted domain request"; dns_query; dataset:se t,dns.whitelist,type string; bypass; sid:112; rev:1; )

head -5 /etc/suricata/rules/dns.whitelist
akadns.net
akamai.com
akamaihd.net
edgekey.net
akamai.net

suricata --af-packet -S "/opt/rules/dns-requests-dataset.rules" -T
(suricata.c:1905) <Info> (ParseCommandLine) -- Running suricata under test mode
(suricata.c:1084) <Notice> (LogVersion) -- This is Suricata version 5.0.1-dev (4343d1bc0 2019-11-30) running in SYSTEM mode
(util-cpu.c:171) <Info> (UtilCpuPrintSummary) -- CPUs/cores online: 112
(util-logopenfile.c:474) <Info> (SCConfLogOpenGeneric) -- eve-log output device (regular) initialized: eve.json
(output-json-dnp3.c:389) <Info> (OutputDNP3LogInitSub) -- DNP3 log sub-module initialized.
(output-tx.c:77) <Notice> (OutputRegisterTxLogger) -- JsonDNP3Log logger not enabled: protocol dnp3 is disabled
(output-json-dnp3.c:389) <Info> (OutputDNP3LogInitSub) -- DNP3 log sub-module initialized.
(output-tx.c:77) <Notice> (OutputRegisterTxLogger) -- JsonDNP3Log logger not enabled: protocol dnp3 is disabled
util-logopenfile.c:474) <Info> (SCConfLogOpenGeneric) -- stats output device (regular) initialized: stats.log
(detect-engine-loader.c:353) <Info> (SigLoadSignatures) -- 1 rule files processed. 1 rules successfully loaded, 0 rules failed
(detect-engine-build.c:1416) <Info> (SigAddressPrepareStage1) -- 1 signatures processed. 0 are IP-only rules, 0 are inspecting packet payload, 1 inspect application layer, 0 are decoder event only
(suricata.c:3060) <Notice> (main) -- Configuration provided was successfully loaded. Exiting.
(detect-engine-build.c:1716) <Info> (SigAddressCleanupStage1) -- cleaning up signature grouping structure... complete

(util-device.c:317) <Notice> (LiveDeviceListClean) -- Stats for 'ens2np0np0': pkts: 0, drop: 0 (-nan%), invalid chksum: 0