As veterinary professionals, we know all too well that the signs of osteoarthritis (OA) can be missed or misinterpreted by pet owners. Many times, the subtler clinical signs associated with osteoarthritis are thought to be normal age-related changes.

Osteoarthritis: When Age Is Not to Blame

A helping hand

Osteoarthritis is often overlooked and underdiagnosed. Give your patients the best lives possible—educate clients about the signs and preventive care.

Meet the Author

Emi Kate Saito, VMD, MSPH, MBA, DACVPM (Epidemiology)
Banfield Pet Hospital, Vancouver, Wash.

Dr. Saito is a member of the Veterinary Affairs team at Banfield Pet Hospital’s headquarters in Vancouver, Wash. As senior manager of Veterinary Research Programs, Dr. Saito leverages Banfield’s electronic medical records to understand pet health trends and to improve patient outcomes by supporting Banfield’s Medical Quality program. She is an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Pennsylvania, Emory University, and the University of Colorado. Her broad career history includes laboratory research, small animal practice, and animal health surveillance.
FEATURE #1:
Full Spectrum Hemp Oil Extract

BENEFIT #1:
Chroniquin™ is a full spectrum hemp oil containing NMXCB1220™, a hemp oil extract containing phytocannabinoids and terpenes – everything the hemp plant has to offer your patients. Many companies offer just an isolate or a blend of some hemp compounds, thus not realizing the full effect of all of the compounds that hemp offers.

FEATURE #2:
Tested to meet label claims and contains less than 0.3% THC

BENEFIT #2:
Chroniquin™ products have a certificate of analysis that guarantees legal THC levels, verifies the claims on the packaging, and demonstrates tests results for containment, such as heavy metals & pesticides.

FEATURE #3:
Chroniquin™ Hemp Oil Extract has been tested and shown to be bioavailable in dogs.

BENEFIT #3:
Research shows that within 30 minutes, substantial plasma concentration is reached within dogs.¹

¹Research on File.

PLEASE VISIT CHRONIQUIN.COM TO ORDER OR RECOMMEND CHRONIQUIN.COM TO YOUR CLIENTS AS A PLACE WHERE QUALITY HEMP OIL CAN BE PURCHASED.
Each batch has been tested for contaminants and contains a full profile of the phytocannabinoids and terpenes found in industrial hemp and less than 0.3% THC per federal guidelines. This is known as full spectrum hemp oil extract.

With so many hemp oil companies entering the market, and with new guidelines and regulations, veterinarians want to find a high quality product that can help their patients.

Now there is Chroniquin™, a full spectrum hemp oil extract from Travco Products, Inc. – a sister company of Nutramax Laboratories Veterinary Sciences, Inc.

TESTED AND VERIFIED QUALITY

Chroniquin™ Hemp Oil Extract is made to the same rigid quality and manufacturing standards as other Nutramax products. Travco Products, Inc. tests and verifies the ingredient levels listed on the packaging. In a recent study of commercial veterinary hemp products, only 23% (3/13) of hemp oil extracts met the levels stated on the label. The remaining 77% (10/13) either made no label claim or were determined to contain less than stated on the label.¹

When choosing a hemp oil extract it is also important to understand the traceability and manufacturing quality standards. Chroniquin™ Hemp Oil Extract uses a proprietary hemp oil blend, NMXCB1220™, that can be traced from seed to extraction.

Phytocannabinoids affect the Endocannabinoid System (ECS) – an important physiological system involved in some of the basic functions of your pet’s body. It is expressed throughout the central & peripheral nervous system and at various locations in the rest of the body.

Your pet’s body produces endocannabinoids. Phytocannabinoids mimic the reactions of endocannabinoids when they bind with receptors.

¹Ben Nie, Joe Wakshlag, and Jack Henion*, Analysis of Veterinary Hemp-based Oils for Product Integrity by LC/MS, Cannabis Sci & Tech, May/June, 2019. In Press

Start an Effective Team-to-Pet Owner Conversation

If engaging in an initial diagnosis, lead with:

Mrs. Jones, Spot is a dog I have seen since he is a puppy, and I am noticing he has senior dog issues.

State the Solution

Chroniquin™ Hemp Oil Extract, is an easy-to-use product, from a trusted manufacturer adhering to the highest industry standards, and contains phytocannabinoids and terpenes.

Make Your Recommendation

There are many hemp oil products on the market, but I recommend Chroniquin™ Hemp Oil Extract because of its quality and value.
Because this leads to underdiagnosis of OA, we focused Banfield Pet Hospital’s 2019 State of Pet Health® Report on osteoarthritis, including how the condition is linked to excess weight. The largest of its kind, Banfield’s 9th annual report was generated using the electronic medical data from the more than 3 million dogs and cats cared for at our hospitals in 2018.

The primary goal of our State of Pet Health Report is to raise awareness among pet owners of the need for regular preventive care and emphasize the role of veterinary care. This year’s report focused on client education to better understand OA and its tie to excess weight, debunk common myths about OA and obesity, learn how to recognize signs of OA-specific pain, and lay the groundwork for conversations with their veterinarians about how to approach diagnosis and management. For the most common signs of osteoarthritis in pets, check out this resource at todaysveterinarypractice.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/07/decoding-the-signs-of-osteoarthritis.pdf

OA IS A WEIGHTY ISSUE

In 2018, over 6% of dogs and 1% of cats were diagnosed with osteoarthritis—a 66% and 150% increase in prevalence in these species, respectively. We also found dogs with OA are 1.7 times more likely to be overweight and cats 1.2 times more likely. Conversely, we found overweight or obese dogs were 2.3 times more likely to be diagnosed with OA.

As initially detailed in the 2019 Veterinary Emerging Topics (VET)® Report, we identified some barriers to OA patients receiving care, including pet owners not recognizing their osteoarthritic pet is in discomfort or pain. In addition, we found 51% of dogs and 41% of cats newly diagnosed with osteoarthritis are also overweight or obese.

We also turned to our partners at Whistle—a fellow Mars-owned company that produces location and activity tracking devices for pets—to conduct a preliminary analysis from the Pet Insight Project to look at behavior data of the tens of thousands of participating dogs wearing the Whistle activity monitor. This resulted in initial findings that support decreased activity in some of our pets with OA or ones that are overweight or obese (FIGURE 1).

A JOINT EFFORT

As veterinary professionals, we recognize client education and communication are the key components to pets receiving the best care and outcomes. As such, it is important that we remain up-to-date on the latest management and treatment options, ensure that we present a thorough diagnostic plan, set aside the time to get a complete history in order to perform the needed diagnostic tests, and set clear expectations for both the immediate issue and the lifetime of the pet. These are the building blocks of a partnership in developing a proper care plan for each pet, leading to a win-win-win solution for the client, the pet, and the veterinary team.

Visit stateofpethealth.com for more information on Banfield’s State of Pet Health Report, including our 2019 osteoarthritis findings and client education tools.
Osteoarthritis: When Age is *Not* to Blame

Banfield Pet Hospital’s research team identified a growing population of pets at risk of developing osteoarthritis, a progressive and degenerative disease that can go undiagnosed, especially in the early stages.

**What is OA?**

Osteoarthritis (OA) is a form of arthritis caused by inflammation and damage to joint tissue, that can affect both dogs and cats. While OA is more common in older pets, it can develop in pets at any age.

OA is a chronic disease that will get worse over time, which can be very painful for pets and make it harder for them to get around comfortably.

Unfortunately, OA has been on the rise over the past 10 years, with a 66% increase in dogs and 150% increase in cats.

**OA is a Heavy Issue**

**Did you know OA and excess weight are linked?**

The percentage of overweight and obese pets has reached epidemic levels, and diseases commonly associated with excess weight – including OA – are on the rise.

- **52%** of Dogs with OA are also overweight or obese
- **41%** of Cats with OA are also overweight or obese

Joint discomfort from OA can keep pets from being active, which can lead to weight gain, which can then worsen the joint condition – a vicious cycle!

**1 out of 3** cats and dogs in the U.S. is overweight

**A Joint Effort**

What you may think is normal “old age” behavior could actually be OA.*

Partner with your veterinarian to identify signs of OA. If OA is suspected, your veterinarian may recommend the following:

- Extended physical examination
- Diagnostic tests
- X-Rays
- Anti-Inflammatory medications
- Electronic pet activity monitor
- Supplements
- Weight-management program that includes a combination of veterinary therapeutic diet and exercise

For more information, visit [www.stateofpethealth.com](http://www.stateofpethealth.com)

* (Flip over to see what to look for at home)

**FIGURE 1.** Preliminary Pet Insight Project findings on activity levels relating to osteoarthritis and obesity in pets.